Dudley
CHRONICLE

Thursday, July 6, 2017 | Read by more than 62,000 people | Price when sold 70p

£50K BILL AS CAR HITS DEALERSHIP

REPORT BY PIPPA ARMSTRONG

AN out-of-control motorist smashed into a Kingswinford car dealership wrecking 10 vehicles and causing more than £50,000 worth of damage.

The vehicles for sale – which were mainly Vauxhall Mokkas – were largely written off at T Wall Vauxhall which is off the High Street, Pensnett.

The driver allegedly fled the scene following the incident on Sunday at around 4am.

Sales manager Kevin Leaver said it had left a 'big impact' on the family-run business.

Mr Leaver, who has worked at the garage for the past 17 years, said: "They damaged up to 10 cars and I think the majority may be written off. I don't know how much it will cost but it's going to be well in excess of £50,000.

"The driver was travelling towards Kingswinford and presumably lost control, went through the barriers and hit one of our cars in the driveway.

"It then catapulted across the driveway and crashed into another one of our cars which careered into the rest.

It has had a big impact on us. Lots of emergency services attended the scene and it was cleared up.

Bailed

"It is concerning because we don't know how we will be claiming for it yet. It is an ongoing police investigation too.

"It was just shocking really and not something you expect to happen."

West Midlands Police said a 28-year old man handed himself in and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

John Westwood, 43, from Kingswinford, had been passing by later that morning when he saw the cars in what he labelled as an 'horrific state'.

He pulled up and decided to film it on his phone.

Mr Westwood then went on to post the video on a Facebook group page – where it has gone on to receive thousands of views.

He said: "It looked like a scene of an horrific accident yet there was no one around.

"I had to pull up because I thought what the hell has happened.

"There were skid marks but nothing really else that was that obvious."

He continued: "There has been a lot of shock in the community about it after I posted the video on Facebook.

"Thank God it happened in the early hours of the morning as if it had been any later someone could have been seriously injured."

The dealership remained open as usual on Monday morning.

MARCH ENSURES CHAINMAKERS NOT FORGOTTEN

Annette Bradney, right, a chainmaker from Cradley Heath with Jayne Blakeway from Friends of the Women at the march

MPS past and present joined forces with officials from more than a dozen Trade Unions to ensure that heroines in the fight for women's rights are not forgotten at an annual event.

In March 1910 thousands of poorly-paid female chainmakers working in Cradley and Cradley Heath staged a 10-week strike that successfully established the right to a minimum wage.

One hundred and seven years later their victory was marked with an all-day event in Cradley Heath High Street which included a march with union banners proudly held aloft.

The annual Women Chainmakers' Festival drew in the crowds. It is now linked with the Black Country Festival – a month-long celebration of Black Country Day.

It was led by the County Durham Riverside Band to nearby Mary Macarthur Park, named after the woman who organised the fund that stopped the striking chainmakers from being starved into submission.

Among the marchers was Annette Bradney, the only resident chainmaker now working in Cradley Heath.

She took over the mantle from her late husband Michael who was a fourth generation chainmaker. His grandmother and her great aunt both took part in the strike.

History

She said it was vital that the annual event, being staged for the 12th year and recognised as the largest celebration in Britain of women's political history, continued so that people did not forget the hard times others had endured to provide better lives for those today.

Former Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP Sylvia Heal, patron of the festival, stressed: "The women chainmakers were almost on the periphery of history until this festival started to ensure they were remembered and continued to inspire future generations."

Rob Marris, the recently-retired MP for Wolverhampton South East said: "It is a great pleasure to be here at a celebration of such an important piece of working class history."

Black Country historian Dr Brian Dakin commented: "The children of today must be reminded that they would not have what they enjoy today had it not been for people like the women chainmakers standing up for their rights."

LEISURE

Brushing up for a fresh Hippodrome

CAMPAIGNERS are putting a fresh gloss on their battle to breathe new life into Dudley Hippodrome.

Volunteer workers have started repainting parts of the outside of the Castle Hill landmark while temporarily halting efforts to clear out rubble and furniture from inside the former theatre and bingo hall. They have impressive plans to rejuvenate the site with a three storey glass extension to the building and an extension of the foyer.

Gordon Downing, chairman of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome, said: "We are now looking at the possibility of grant aid."

PLEDGE

Council vows tough stance on travellers

COUNCIL bosses have vowed they will get tougher on illegal traveller camps.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader at Dudley Council, said the authority will work closer with police and use eviction powers where legally possible to tackle illegal encampments on public open spaces.

"We will not tolerate people who illegally set up camp on public land."

● Transient – Page 5

FOOTBALL

Tournament in aid of heart foundation

A FOOTBALL tournament is being organised to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Gurcharan and Herjinder Bhujhangy from Dudley, are organising a five-a-side charity football tournament at Goals, Cakemore Road, Blackheath on July 22.

Teams can enter to take part with a maximum of seven player, adult teams cost £70 and children teams cost £30 and teams. Call 0121 561 3000 or 07762 521584 before 20 July.

INSIDE

IT'S CARNIVAL FUN IN THE SUN

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Pc honoured for tackling knifeman

Chief Constable Dave Thompson awards Pc Trueman

A POLICE officer who bravely tackled a man wielding a large knife in a street has received an award for his commitment to protecting the public.

Pc Wayne Trueman quickly responded to reports of men seen with a blade in Mill Street, Brierley Hill, last November.

He spotted a suspect waving a 24cm knife in the street and, fearing for the safety of others in the area, courageously approached the armed man. Pc Trueman sprayed the suspect with CS-type spray after he refused to put the weapon down.

The man threw the kitchen knife into a garden and fled but was caught after a foot chase by Pc Trueman who suffered a facial injury while arresting him.

A 42-year-old man was found guilty of possessing a knife in public and jailed for three months last December.

Pc Trueman was awarded a Chief Constable's Commendation for his actions at an awards ceremony at Tally Ho last week.

Sergeant Richard Galbraith, from Brierley Hill police, said: "This was a real show of bravery from Pc Trueman.

"He was acutely aware of the risk posed to himself and others and was prepared to put himself in danger to protect the public," Sgt Galbraith added.

'Racing' driver jailed over fatal accident

A DRIVER who smashed into a car killing the front-seat passenger as he used a busy dual carriageway 'as a race track', has been jailed for more than five years.

James Mills, aged 23, had been racing another car on the busy Pedmore Road, near Merry Hill.

One motorist described his black Ford Focus, which had been modified to make it more powerful, as hurtling past him 'like a rocket'.

The victim was Vijaya Mistry, a 74-year-old grandmother, who was sitting next to her husband in their Mondeo as he waited to turn right into The Gateway. She was thrown through the passenger window and died of her injuries later in hospital.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard Mills had been travelling at up to 80mph – twice the limit – as he competed with a white Citreon on February 3.

Speed

Ms Cathlyn Orchard, prosecuting, said the main cause was the high speed of the Focus.

Investigating officers said Mills' car had covered 450 metres in just 15 seconds from a standing start. As it passed the BP station it was doing 73mph.

Mills, who tested negative for drink and drugs, owned up immediately and expressed genuine remorse and concern for his victims, the court heard.

In defence, Ms Heidi Kubik said he had the courage to make admissions at the scene.

"It is a sad feature of the case that the victim was ejected from the car because she wasn't wearing a seat belt,"she said.

Mills, of School Road, Quarry Bank, Brierly Hill, admitted causing death by dangerous driving. He sobbed as he was jailed for five years and four months and banned from driving for seven years on his release.

Town hall fizzes with 80s icons

Cheryl Baker, Mike Nolan and Jay Aston, formerly of Bucks Fizz, with Bobby McVey, in Dudley

FORMER Eurovision winners brought the fizz with them to Dudley Town Hall, *writes Kirsten Rawlins.*

Members of iconic 80s band Bucks Fizz performed their classic hits and new numbers on their latest Make Believe tour, which coincides with the original group's 35th anniversary. The band, comprising Cheryl Baker, Mike Nolan and Jay Aston formerly of Bucks Fizz, with special guest Bobby McVey, turned back the clock on Thursday night – with cheers and applause before they even got on stage.

Combined with nostalgic footage of the band through the years played on a screen behind them, this was a show that took the audience right back to their teenage years.

The 1981 track, Piece Of The Action, went down a storm, with some audience members dancing in the wings throughout.

A poignant ballad was delivered by Jay in song 'Great Expectations, which was accompanied by footage of the late Marilyn Monroe.

Traffic lights revamp after council given £600k funds

A REVAMP of traffic lights in Dudley will be carried out after more than £600,000 was secured from the government.

Traffic signals along the A461 through Brierley Hill and A4101 in Pensnett and Kingswinford will be refurbished after Dudley Council secured £660,000 from the Department for Transport to spend on the maintenance.

Delays will be expected while the work is carried out.

The work is expected to begin this summer and will tie in to improve transport infrastructure ahead of the new Midland Metro tram line which will run from Wednesbury to Dudley.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We will notify residents if they will be impacted.

"But we will try and keep disruption to a minimum."

Eight signal intersections will be improved. New sensory signals will be fitted to the signals, bringing them up to date with state-of-the-art technology.

The traffic light improvements come ahead of major road improvement to a busy transport corridor in Pensnett.

Work totalling £6.3 million has started to widen the High Street with two lanes introduced in both directions, two new sets of traffic lights and additional pedestrian crossings.

Contract changes avert strike action

STRIKE action at Dudley Council has been averted after staff agreed to changes to their contracts.

Bosses say the revised terms and conditions will save the council more than £1.6m over the next three years.

Staff originally rejected proposals in an initial ballot to 'test the water' over the appetite for industrial action.

The new agreement means that staff will be paid 10p less per mile for mileage allowances, meaning they will get 45p – the HMRC recommended amount – compared to the 55p per mile previously. Staff will also have to take three days unpaid leave and member allowances will be reduced.

Overtime payments for anyone earning over £36,000 will also be stopped, in a bid to save £77,000.

Shop still for sale

A FORMER Co-op supermarket in Halesowen remains on the market nearly one year on. The site on Halesowen Road, near the Kent Road island, has been up for let for around £190,000 a year by Sellers surveyors. The building has remained empty since early 2015.

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Revamp bid for Trident Centre back on agenda

A LONG-awaited plan to revamp a shopping centre is back on the table, according to council chiefs.

An ambitious overhaul of the Trident Centre in Dudley was shelved earlier this year after a row between developer John Sykes, chairman of Atlantis Property, and council chiefs.

However, since leadership of the local authority switched from Labour to Conservative, Mr Sykes said he has had a successful meeting with new leader Patrick Harley – which could see a scheme to revamp the centre resurrected.

Councillor Harley described talks as 'very positive' and said new investment in the borough was 'vital'.

Previous plans included shops and leisure attractions, while the firm also wanted to create 185 apartments. Councillor Harley said: "I think it would be a mix of residential and retail outlets as has been mentioned before. It's vital that we engage with people like John Sykes and try to make Dudley an attractive place to invest.

"If we could develop the Trident Centre it would really provide a boost for that part of the town. It looks very positive."

Mr Sykes said: "We need to work in synergy as we both want the same things and the right thing for the area.It's looking better and we seem to be back on the right ground again."

Election shake-up on cards at council

A CONSULTATION has aunched on plans to shake up elections in Dudley – with all councillors elected once every four years.

Currently, the council elects in thirds with 24 seats out 72 up for grabs every year, with elected councillors sitting for four years.

But under new plans, if agreed by the council, all 72 seats would be voted for at the same time.

Chief executive Sarah Norman said: "It is important we listen to local people when considering these. There are many advantages and disadvantages to both systems."

The consultation is open until September 15 and the results will be put to a meeting of the full council in October.

Auditions are held

AUDITIONS are being held for the Pirates of Penzance, by Stourbridge Choir and Orchestra, on July 18 at Gigmill Church, Glebe Lane, Stourbridge from 7.30 pm. Apply via piano_man_27@hotmail.com

Lorry driver jailed for fatal crash

Mark Williams

A 'RECKLESS' lorry driver who killed a car driver in a 'completely avoidable' crash in slow-moving traffic has been jailed for four years.

Mark Williams, aged 45, of Tipton, crashed his lorry into the back of the car, causing the car to hit the back of the lorry in front of it on the A13 near Grays, Essex Police said.

The driver of the car, 23 year-old Foday Koroma from Basildon, died at the scene at around 9.30am on February 2.

Williams, of Park Lane West, admitted causing death by dangerous driving and was jailed for four years at Basildon Crown Court, banned from driving for three years and will have to take an extended test.

Detective Sergeant Pete Harris, from the Essex Police Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: "This was a completely avoidable crash which has led to the death of an innocent man. Mark Williams's recklessness has had devastating consequences.

""I cannot reiterate strongly enough how big the impact is on a family when we have to tell them a loved one has died because of someone else's actions.

"I hope the sentence provides some solace to Mr Koroma's family."

Earlier court hearings were told Williams was on the A1012 exit slip road on the London-bound A13 when the Yodel lorry he was driving ploughed in to the back of Mr Koroma's red Peugeot 307 at about 9.30am. Williams was arrested at the scene on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving.

Tributes were paid to Mr Koroma, who lived in Basildon, and was on his way to the University of Greenwich in London at the time of the crash.

Pastor George Quaicoe, who leads the congregation of the Greater Grace Temple in Barking, the church at which Mr Koroma worshipped, said: "He was very humble, very quiet and very loving and caring."

Clean-up is removing mountain of rubbish

IT resembles a river of rubbish – more than 2,000 tons of waste creating a stinking blot on the landscape. Now the huge task of clearing the site has begun after a watchdog group stepped in.

The Environment Agency took enforcement action against the company responsible for the 2,000 tons of rubbish at Shaw Road, Dudley, and last week the permit holders and landowners had began clearing the site, monitored by the Environment Agency (EA).

The job is expected to take weeks with the mass of rubbish being taken by trucks to legitimate waste sites.

Steve Rogers, environment officer for the Environment Agency said: "Waste on the site of Rowanoak Waste, Shaw Road, Dudley, has started to be cleared."

Meanwhile, a probe continues to find out just how the dump was allowed to get so out of control.

Mr Rogers added: "While our investigation into the depositing of the waste at the site is ongoing, we have been working with the permit holders and landowners to secure the safe and legal removal of waste at the site.

Safely

"We estimate the site contains 2,000 tonnes of waste; this waste is now being cleared and will be taken to landfill. We are monitoring and tracking the waste to make sure it is being disposed of safely.

"We take our role as a regulator seriously and we take enforcement action against anyone operating outside their permit or operating illegally."

The EA has repeated its appeal for information about mounds of waste that are causing a concern.

In March 2016, the agency took formal enforcement action against the operator Rowan Oak Waste Services, over its failure to reduce the amount of waste on the site and removed its right to operate as a result.

A revocation notice was served, which took effect in April last year and required the operator to clear the site by September 16, 2016.

If anyone has any concerns about a waste site, they can call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

Eyesore – The huge pile of rubbish on land, off Shaw Road, Dudley, that is finally being removed

142-home plan at industrial site

INDUSTRIAL land which has been blighted by anti-social behaviour could be transformed and turned into homes.

An application has been lodged with Dudley Council for the overhaul of the site, off Darkhouse Lane, in Coseley. The developer, Clive Jessup, from Cannock, hopes to turn the currently derelict 13-acre site near Rosewood Primary School into a new housing estate of up to 142 homes.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said if the scheme went ahead it would be 'a boost' to the local area.

A previous application in 2013, from Darkhouse Properties (Jersey) Ltd, for 108 properties, was approved, but no development has taken place.

A design and planning statement submitted as part of the application states: "Despite the site being allocated as employment land it must be noted the site has remained vacant for some time now and is subject to anti-social behaviour problems."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free car parking trial is extended

A FREE parking trial to boost trade across the borough has been extended for the next two months.

Shoppers visiting Dudley Council car parks in Brierley Hill, Dudley, Halesowen and Sedgley have been able to enjoy up to two hours of free parking since April 24.

The trial was meant to end on July 2, but council bosses have decided to keep it going until the end of August.

People need to print and display a free parking ticket from the machines already in place. Normal charges will apply for those parking for longer than two hours and return is prohibited within three hours of leaving.

Nerf and laser tag offer to gamers

NERF and laser tag sessions are on offer in Halesowen.

Adrenaline-fuelled fun is on offer for thrill seekers at Carters Lane Baptist Church Hall on Saturday, July 29.

Revellers can immerse themselves in a range of fast-paced action-packed games in a unique live experience. The event, hosted by ActionBlast, has spaces available for a 40-minute session priced at £8.50.

Sessions run at 2pm and 3pm. Call 07515 494860 or email info@actionblastevents.comor visit www.facebook.com/actionblastevents

Chance to win a £100 voucher

RESIDENTS can win a £100 shopping voucher by taking part in a public consultation to find out how people feel about where they live.

Dudley Council is holding an eight-day roadshow, across 19 places in the borough, which will allow people to air their opinions, with council staff and community volunteers on hand. Everyone taking will be entered into a prize draw to win the voucher.

Results of the roadshow will be displayed at Dudley Town Hall on November 4.For a full list of locations, visit www.dudley.gov.uk.

Company joins Made in Britain campaign

BATHROOM products manufacturer Thomas Dudley has officially joined the Made in Britain campaign.

It hosted at Made in Britain – Marketing for Manufacturers workshop at its head office in Dudley.

Visitors were given a tour of the company's plastics warehouse,

Shabnam Gangar, marketing communications officer, said there were more than 20 delegates from external companies.

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COUNTY NEWS

Hate crimes in fall since referendum

HATE crimes based on race or religion in the West Midlands have dropped by 13 per cent since the EU referendum in June last year.

From July 2015 to May last year, there were 3,306 hate crimes. Then, in the same nine-month period from July last year to May this year there were 2,879 of the crimes.

In October last year, Wolverhampton Council supported National Hate Crime Awareness Week.

Council leader, Roger Lawrence, made a public statement on the issue. He said: "Wolverhampton is proud to be a city that respects and values diversity."

Hundreds of tower blocks are checked

FIRE investigators are testing cladding on more than 400 high-rise blocks across the West Midlands in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

They are looking for a specific type of aluminium cladding as part of ramped up efforts to look into safety around high-rise buildings.

West Midlands Fire Service chief fire officer Phil Loach said there are 'no new significant fire safety issues' regarding high-rises in the West Midlands.

There are no tower blocks in the Black Country fitted with flammable cladding, council bosses confirmed.

Book about war leaders praised

A UNIVERSITY of Birmingham graduate has won praise for his book, which has been released during the centenary year of the Battle of Arras.

Dr Trevor Harvey's work, An Army of Brigadiers, British Brigade Commanders at the Battle of Arras 1917 has been praised for offering 'unique and original insights on British operations on the Western Front'.

Dr Harvey, who grew up in Great Barr, was educated at West Bromwich Grammar School.

Company founder Roy dies aged 83

A COMPANY founder who ran his own engineering business in Wolverhampton for more than half a century has died at 83. Roy Humphries, of Monmore Green, started the business from a unit in Coven. It now employs around a dozen people.

The family firm, R. Humphries Engineering Company Ltd, now based in Sharrocks Street, is run by the next two generations. His funeral will take place today, Thursday, at Bushbury Crematorium.

Social care costs to see council tax rise

COUNCIL tax could increase by three per cent next year in Dudley to pay for adult social care.

The possible rise was discussed at a meeting of the council's cabinet last Thursday, when a review into the care strategy was discussed.

The idea was aired as part of a discussion on how the social care budget had been 'squeezed' over the last ten years, taking into account increases in the National Living Wage. Councillor Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said: "I can go back 10 or more years and see how we have squeezed the care home sector to keep costs down. The effect has been people living in inadequate care homes in the borough or having no option but to go elsewhere.

"We haven't made provision for the National Living Wage."

Tony Oakman, strategic director of people, said: "All care homes are regulated by the CQC and have to meet certain standards. But the council has met the requirements of the National Living Wage at £4 million and there have been several uplifts to provider rates which equates to something in the region of £300,000. We are doing everything we should be doing."

Chairman of the meeting, Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "This should not be an issue of politics but one that we can collaboratively work together on."

Councillor Jones

Runners are streets ahead in annual race

By John Scott

AROUND 1,000 people donned their trainers to take to the streets for this year's Black Country Road Race.

It signalled the start of the Black Country Festival and was split into three different events.

There were 5k and 10k races on Sunday, together with a family fun run and walk.

Both races started and finished in the centre of Halesowen and the winner of the 5K was James Thie from Cardiff while the first woman home was Sophie Falshaw.

Among the others who took part was Wolverhampton teacher Robin Fearn, aged 44, his wife Kay and their 12-year-old son Oliver.

Robin, who works at East Park Academy and lives in Kidderminster, said: "We started running towards the end of last year and had been looking for an opportunity to do it for real. I did not know Halesowen had so many hills so it was nice to get to the end."

Second

Dave Norman, aged 47, who works for an insurance company and lives in Penn, came second in his age group in the 10k with a time of 39 minutes. He took part with fellow Dudley Kingswinford Running Club members Andy Weaver, 56, from Wombourne and Flora Bianco of Kinver.

Dave said: "There is a lot of mileage on the clock. It was a tough course and enjoyable race. There was good support through the town."

This was the sixth year of the annual event which started as a fun run and is organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club. It was the brainchild of one of their members, Alan Bowler, and has already raised more than £100,000 for charity.

The 10k race was added in 2013 with the 5k appearing on the agenda for the first time this year.

Andy Weaver, Flora Bianco and Dave Norman from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club

First 5k woman Sophie Falshaw of Lye, receives her medal

First three, James Thie, Stephen Pearson, Clark Woodhall

Passengers subjected to random bus attacks

A THUG who viciously attacked random bus passengers because he was 'having a bad day' has been locked up.

Tyrique Watson's victims were left injured and shocked by the unprovoked assaults in Stourbridge – all on the number nine bus, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

One passenger needed surgery for a broken nose. A teenager who went to another victim's aid ended up being struck several times herself and having clumps of her hair pulled out.

The court heard 19-year-old Watson appeared 'emotionless' during the attacks on three women and a man which were caught on CCTV.

Judge Nicholas Webb described the attacks as 'vicious outbreaks of violence' against vulnerable people who were clearly targeted. He sentenced Watson to four years in a Young Offenders Institution.

The court heard all four victims had been left too nervous to use public transport.

Ms Rachel Pennington, defending, said Watson could not explain his actions but was full of remorse. "He had been having a bad day, he lost his temper and he knows there was no need to hit anyone," she said. "What he did was out of character."

Watson, of Stepping Stones, Stourbridge, who had not been in trouble before, admitted one charge of wounding and three of assault causing actual bodily harm.

Judge Webb said the attacks had shown a degree of premeditation as the CCTV footage showed Watson looking for someone to pick on.

Consultation on homes strategy

PEOPLE living in high-rise tower blocks in Dudley could be moved out into low-rise accommodation, under plans to build new houses on green belt land.

The council opened its consultation into the Black Country Core Strategy, which includes looking at home-building for the future.

Councillor Les Jones, cabinet member for housing, said: "People living in high-rise blocks could see themselves moved out.

"One of the issues is, if they are moved out of high-rise blocks into low-rise accommodation, low-rise buildings take up more space. So we will need to look at different sites and land to build on."

A series of roadshow consultation events are in the pipeline and will be finalised soon to enable people to go along and have their say on the plans.

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Firm's false registration claims lead to court bill

A HEATING firm that falsely claimed to be registered to two trade accreditation organisations has landed a court bill of more than £3,000.

Plumbzone (Dudley) Ltd, of Prospect Row, Dudley, and two directors admitted the offences at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court.

The court heard how the company had been told by Dudley Council trading standards officers it was longer NICEIC registered, but continued to display the logo on its website and vans. It also found the company's website and vans continued to display the Guild of Master Craftsmen logo after it ceased membership in 2013.

The court was told no complaints had been received from customers, but the false claims may have led customers to employ the company on the basis of the claimed accreditations.

Plumbzone (Dudley) Ltd, and a former director Arshad Mohammed, pleaded guilty to two offences under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 in relation to the false claims.

Company director Mumtaz Ali Khan admitted three offences including failing to make adequate checks that information on the company's website was accurate. Khan was fined £750 with £491 costs and £30 victim surcharge. Both Mohammed, and the company, were fined £500 with £491 costs and £30 surcharge.

HSE action over steel firm accident

A STEEL stockholders in Dudley is being prosecuted by the Health & Safety Executive.

It follows an incident last year in which a man suffered serious injuries during the delivery of steel coil to the company.

The victim's legs were crushed when he became trapped by the metal while on the back of a lorry at an industrial unit on Deepdale Lane, Lower Gornal, at 1.45pm. on November 8.

Fire crews used specialist lifting equipment to free the man, who is in his 30s, before he was lowered off the lorry and rushed to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The man sustained serious crush injuries and required advanced trauma care to stabilise his condition.

80s tribute night

FANS of 80s music can enjoy a tribute concert on Saturday. Kick up the 80s will perform the likes of ABC, Go West and Wham! at the River Rooms in Stourbridge. Tickets cost £8 on 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661.

Travellers could get transient site

A TEMPORARY travellers' site could be provided in Dudley in a bid to discourage illegal camps.

DUDLEY Council chiefs have been looking at suitable sites in the borough.

Travellers set up camp on two playing fields last week, prompting a fresh row over how to deal with the problem.

Councillor Les Jones, Dudley's cabinet member for housing, said: "Myself and councillor Karen Shakespeare have been looking to see if their is a suitable transient site. One could help us tackle illegal traveller camps. It has to be something that we look at in the future."

Transient sites see travellers pay a fee to use them. The provision of such sites also bring in greater powers for councils to tackle the illegal camps which cause distress for nearby residents and often leave an authority or landowner with a huge clean up bill.

Travellers in around 40 caravans pitched up on Milking Bank last month, near to Milking Bank Primary School, before moving on to Grange Park.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin criticised Dudley Council and West Midlands Police over how long it took to move on the travellers.

He tweeted:" It is outrageous. Been there since Tuesday. I went today (on Saturday) and there are over 40 caravans. I've been urging the council and police to sort it out."

He asked councillor Jones why it had taken so long, adding that the suggestion was a 'complete disgrace'.

Councillor Jones, responding on Twitter, tweeted: "So long? Bailiffs used to move from site one, action already in process for site two. Council staff threatened with knives, get real Ian."

He said a member of staff was threatened by travellers but the incident was not reported to police.

In neighbouring Sandwell plans are also in the pipeline for a transient site. Sandwell brought in powers earlier this year that allows them to move on travellers from council-owned land within 24 hours.

Councillor Jones added: "Some travellers know the law better than we do. They know how to play it."

It's carnival capers as towns enjoy festivities

THE sun shone over the Black Country for two annual carnivals.

Halesowen Carnival hit record numbers, with organisers reporting entrance figures as high as 7,000. There were hundreds in attendance at Stourbridge Carnival too.

From wrestling matches to dog shows – there was a whole range of activities and entertainment on the cards in Highfield Park on Saturday for the Halesowen event.

For the first time a food and drink festival was introduced, which proved a big draw with crowds.

Festivities ran from midday to 8pm with live music throughout the day.

Councillor Stuart Henley, a member of the four-team organising committee, said: "It was excellent. Even better than we anticipated.

"We had the weather on our side which was great. I didn't realise how many people were in Halesowen. A big thank you goes out to all the residents and we apologise if there was any parking issues."

Preparations are already under way for next year's carnival and a number of traders and food stalls have already signed up.

Forward

But organisers are hoping more volunteers and sponsors will come forward ahead of the next event in order to make it even better.

Councillor Henley added:"Anyone who wants to help us out with sponsorship or volunteering should get in touch."

Call Stuart on 07967 142367 or email halesowencarnival@gmail.com

The following day, under sunny skies, hundreds turned out to enjoy Stourbridge Carnival. Hordes descended on the town centre to enjoy the event as part of the Black Country Festival – a month-long community celebration around Black Country Day.

The traditional Stourbridge Carnival Princess and Rosebud competition took place with the theme commemorating the carnival's heydays in the late 1980s.

The High Street, Coventry Street and Market Street were filled with stalls, displays and a fun fair. Lower High Street hosted a classic car display.

The afternoon saw local musicians, including Esther Turner, performing live on the outdoor stage.

The Cannon Dance Academy were giving performances at the Halesowen Carnival in Highfield Park

Ron Popple at Stourbridge

Darcy Farren at Halesowen

Stourbridge Princess Lily Perry

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zoo helps to mark World Camel Day

DUDLEY Zoo's Bactrian camel family were in the spotlight as they helped staff raise awareness and funds for their critically endangered wild counterparts.

As part of the attraction's World Camel Day celebrations, they raised £357.50 for The Wild Camel Protection Foundation.

Farm Section Leader Lesley Lewis, said: "As part of keepers' fundraising efforts, we held a competition to guess the name of the large cuddly camel, toy, which was named Bertie and was won by Steve Wood while we also held a raffle for an adoption of one of our trio, won by Susan Harrison."

Co-op initiative tackles loneliness

CO-OP staff are focusing on loneliness and anti-social behaviour as part of a pledge to tackle nine causes and issues that have an impact on people in the Black Country.

Colleagues from Midcounties Co-op in Sedgley took part in a dragon boat race at Himley Hall, raising more than £2,000 for charity partner Beacon Centre for the Blind and got 169 young people involved.

Support will be provided for each of the causes throughout the year, including fundraising, volunteering and providing grants.

Injured bassist returns to stage

THE bass player with rock group The Wonder Stuff is to return to live action in a wheelchair.

The band – formed in Stourbridge 31 years ago – had to cancel concerts in May after Martin McCarthy was involved in a road accident on his bike in London.

The musician, who joined the group in 2004, suffered multiple injuries and was in hospital for several weeks.

But he will be back on stage for the first time at the Cheese and Grain, Frome, Somerset, next Friday, on July 14.

Scheme launched to save on business rates

DUDLEY Council has launched a scheme to help pubs and businesses save money on their rates.

It is estimated it will benefit more than 200 pubs, 45 small businesses and 230 other firms if approved.

The government has given the council £604,000 to help the 230 businesses and will foot the bill for the other pubs and small businesses on top. Councillor Steve Clark, cabinet member for finance, said: "This will be a huge boost to small businesses and pubs."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Driverless cars: But where is enjoyment?

WESTFIELD cars, one of the Black Country's best-kept secrets, has shown that the area still leads the way when it comes to cutting edge engineering and technology.

The Kingswinford-based company, best known for its 1950s-style road racers, has developed the world's first driverless sports car. And what a beautiful looking thing it is too, with its sleek, curvaceous body, wide-mouth grille and stacked double headlamps giving it all the allure of something Alfa Romeo or TVR might have produced in their heyday.

Yet there is also something that troubles me deeply about the idea of a self-driving sports car. Surely the whole point of a sports car is driver enjoyment, the intuitive sensuality of piloting the machine through country lanes, the sensation of feeling at one with the road. Why would anyone want a microchip have all the fun?

❒❒❒

WHEN was the best time to live? The older generation always used to wax lyrical about the "good ol' days" usually referring to some time around the 1920s, "when you could leave your door open knowing that nobody would steal anything." Then there is the baby-boomer generation, waxing lyrical about the Summer of Love and the Swinging 60s.

They're both wrong, of course. The time when we really had things right was about some time towards the end of the 1980s. Say about 1987, when the economy was booming, we had pretty much all the technology we have today, but when there was still some sort of social fabric which seems to have disappeared over the past 30 years.

When we had video recorders, cassette players and comfortable homes and cars, but when catching burglars and shoplifters took precedence over minor speeding and parking offences, and when our town centres had shops in them.

It was also about the last time when television was worth watching. No Big Brother or X Factor, but comedies with jokes in them. Drama meant Minder, The Professionals or Bergerac. Come Dancing, minus the celebrities, was just a gentle interlude between the news and Question Time.

Oh, and yes, there was Blind Date. An excruciating low-rent dating show when an assortment of geeks and show-offs recited pre-scripted double entendres to get their 15 minutes of fame.

Why, out of all the great programmes that were made in the 1980s, did somebody think this was the one to revive?

Morrisons have the last laugh over Singh signage

When the Sainsbury's chain objected the shop was renamed Morrisinghs

Prince Harry says none of the young royals would choose to be king or queen

Jeremy Corbyn, who was seen hugging Grenfell survivors

Name change left a bitter taste for store

JEL Singh Nagra was forced to change the name of his shop in Tyneside after a legal complaint from Sainsbury's. Like a number of Sikh-owned shops, it was light-heartedly named Singhsbury's. When the supermarket chain objected, Jel renamed the shop Morrisinghs. Far from being annoyed, Morrisons says: "Mr Nagra and his customers obviously have good taste so we wish him well." Who comes out of this story best? Mr Nagra must be happy with his masses of free publicity. Morrisons is perceived as an organisation with a sense of humour. And Sainsbury's looks like a bunch of po-faced killjoys.

PRINCE Harry says none of the young royals would become king or queen, given the choice, but would take the throne out of their sense of duty. Maybe all he wants is a right taken for granted by every other child in the kingdom. The right to dream of being a train driver, a firefighter or a football star. The right to choose your own life.

IT is not exactly hero to zero, but Theresa May's authority has been seriously depleted, not simply by her catastrophic decision to hold a snap general election, but also what was considered an inadequate, even cold, response to the Grenfell Tower disaster.

THE truth is, the Tories seemingly did all the wrong things after Grenfell, while Jeremy Corbyn, seen hugging survivors, did all the right ones.

THE Ulstermen have been bribed and the Scots have elected a clutch of Conservative MPs to Westminster. Mrs May's Tory Government : O'Strong & McStable.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

RESIDENTS who prevented a traveller convoy occupying a green outside their homes in north Wales claim the cops did little to support them. One woman declared: "The police called us inciteful for coming out together." Strange term to use. Maybe the officer in question actually said "insightful," meaning perceptive or wise.

GOOGLE has been fined £2.1 billion by EU regulators for "artificially and illegally promoting its own price comparison service in searches." This allegedly "denied both its consumers real choice and rival firms the ability to compete on a level playing field." I hold no brief for Google but as a humble EU citizen with the nous to find bargains, it seems to me that Google used its own shop window to promote its own products. Just as every department store and village shop across the EU does.

THINGS you accumulate. Sorting out her jewellery (euphemism) box, Mrs Rhodes came across a small box containing Georgia's baby teeth. It is not unusual to keep your kids' little toosy-pegs. But Georgia was not our offspring. She was the little black labrador we puppy-walked 25 years ago to prepare for her training as a guide dog. Long gone but loved for ever. And how sharp those tiny teeth were.

I HAD eye surgery this week. It was a blissful little drama, apart from the first act which involved three nurses wrestling to insert a painkilling pellet under my resisting eyelid. Next, the numbing eye drops, followed by what I believe the drug-abusing community calls seriously good **** from the anaesthetist. The op itself was not only painless but enjoyable, a dreamy 40 minutes as the eye surgeon did his stuff (which has always struck me as being like trying to pick up eels with chopsticks) and I descended into what looked like an ever-changing kaleidoscope of blue and white lights. It was like a day trip to the Sixties. I should have asked for the Sgt Pepper soundtrack.

I AM pleased, nay smug, to report that the reason the nurses struggled with the analgesic pellet is that my eyelids are unusually taut and youthful. Shame about the other bits.

DESPITE all the warnings and a £100 fine plus six points, you still see drivers using mobile phones – even while driving convertibles. But for sheer brass neck, can anyone rival the farmer's lad I spotted turning his tractor and trailer into a lane? He was driving one-handed with no hand signal, no number plate and no lights. While texting.

TALKING POINT

Bad blood until an inquiry is finally held

The biggest UK medical scandal since thalidomide is in danger of fading into the background again, eclipsed by Brexit and terrorism on the national agenda.

The tainted blood scandal saw haemophiliacs, many of them children, given blood products by the NHS in the 1970s and 80s that were contaminated with HIV and hepatitis C.

People with blood clotting disorders were given products sourced from convicts and 'skid row' donors in the United States, including drug addicts and prostitutes who were paid to donate blood.

For decades victims and their families were told that the infections that caused premature deaths and disabled many others were an unforseeable and unfortunate consequence of treatment.

But then Andy Burnham MP, in his last speech in Parliament before leaving to become Mayor of Manchester, called for an inquiry after alleging a 'criminal cover-up on an industrial scale' in the NHS over the historic use of contaminated blood.

In a powerful speech the former Health Secretary said he had seen documents that showed victims had been used as 'guinea pigs' and subjected to 'slurs and smears' when they tried to get more information about their treatment.

Evidence has come to light that some senior medics knew that the products were harmful but continued to allow them to be used. And these products were not always being given in life-or-death operations, sometimes they were for minor procedures.

The victims and their families have long suspected a cover up and that successive Governments have dragged their feet, aware that a potential compensation bill is coming down as victims die. The victims have only received some small discretionary payments linked to personal hardships, not the major compensation that victims in several other countries have received. It seems that in the UK saving money is the top priority, rather than justice for the thousands of victims and their families. No body or organisation has ever admitted liability.

Quite rightly there has been a public inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster, in which 96 died, and it seems certain one will be held into the Grenfell Tower horror, where the death toll is likely to surpass 79. However, more than 2,000 people in the UK have died as a result of tainted blood. Thousands more have been living with poor health as a result. Surely they deserve a public inquiry too?

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Hand over leaving EU to the experts

IT'S time, in my opinion, to let Nigel Farage and our elected MEP's take charge of exiting the EU now.

June 23 should have been our last year as EU members if David Cameron or Theresa May had not delayed sending Article 50 immediately after the referendum. We have elected MEP's from all parties to represent us in the EU, of which Nigel Farage and other UKip MEPs are still the party with the largest number of British MEPs. Surely it's time to hand over exiting the EU to Nigel and our other MEPs who are the real experts? On June 8 the Good people of Great Britain went out to vote, but no one expected another coalition Tory based Government. There are only six mainstream political parties in Great Britain. All the Independent candidates and smaller parties are generally classed as 'others' so why are we seeing the Tories trying to form a Government from one of the lesser 'others' groups? In all three Wolves seats Labour won, ahead of the Tories and UKip, the same in Walsall South and West Bromwich West. In Dudley South & Cannock Chase, the Tories won ahead of Labour and Ukip – my point being with three strong main stream parties how come we ended up being DUPed with a Tory DUP coalition government prospect?

So many people working hard pounding our streets, so much media coverage, so many leaflets all for only 650 seats in Government. Maybe it's time to replace the un-elected house of Lords with a second chamber made from all the candidates that came in second in General Elections and hand over exiting the EU to the EU experts.

G E FANTHOM
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Address concerns over NHS

WITH the BMA chairman warning that the government is running the NHS on "nothing but fumes", the government must listen to the concerns of the medical profession

Across the West Midlands, health and social care services are at breaking point. Ministers have continually ignored pleas about the impact that underinvestment and poor workforce planning are having on the level of care being provided.

The NHS is in a vulnerable position, with waiting times rising, patient care suffering and staff working under difficult circumstances. The government must improve the NHS to the level that patients deserve before it goes even further in the wrong direction.

DR STEPHEN MILLAR
BMA West Midlands
Regional council chair

Why walk dogs when the sun is blazing?

WHY do all people take dogs a walk in blazing hot sun? It's alright for people, they wear shoes, sandals, etc, dogs' paws are on the hot ground with nothing to protect them. We take our dog before 6am before the sun starts to rise and after midnight as sun is set.

I was in Wollaston on June 19 and somebody thought it was fine fun to leave a dog in a hot car while they went to pub with no window open or no drink.

J ROBERTS
Stourbridge

Tough but they were happy days

I WOULD imagine that Mr Etheridge and I are about the same age as his letter regarding the non-existent 'golden days' rang out clear and true to me and bought back many memories.

When you look back at those days we did have it hard but that was how life was then and we knew no different, compare it to now and survival is so much easier. We learnt so much from those days like the fact that the world does not owe you a living, you get out of life what you are prepared to put in.

However it is only when we look back now, we realise that even though we worked longer and in some cases in conditions that would not be tolerated now, they were happy days.

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THE May meeting took the form of an open evening when friends and non-members were invited to join for light refreshments, and enjoy a pleasant evening gaining a brief insight into the aims of the guild.

Members from the Federation and neighbouring guilds were also invited, with entertainment from the group Gloriana, who got as many people as possible to join in the medieval dances.

Gloriana were dressed in very rich colourful gowns from various periods, although the sole male member looked a little uncomfortable at times in his breeches and tights!

After enjoying refreshments, members and visitors were invited to buy cakes, posies and plants from the laden table. There was also a display of items made and painted by the tea and talents group, photographs of the ambling group and local paper headlines.

It was an enjoyable, well attended evening, and will hopefully entice new members to join.

The annual dinner at Hagley Golf & Country Club, was attended by approximately 30 members. The evening was most convivial with good food and plenty of chatting and laughing. Thanks go to Sue Ward, the organiser.

Potential new members are welcome at meetings, held at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston, on the second Tuesday of the month.

Fitting testimony to the 'Salt King'

Lance Cartwright as Salt King John Corbett

Amblecote History Society

AMBLECOTE History Society thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful day at a picnic in the magnificent grounds of the Chateau Impney to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth in Brierley Hill of John Corbett.

A large attendance enjoyed the many display stands and free musical entertainment.

The Amblecote History Society display stand, comprising a collection of quality photographic material and historical narrative about the life and times of John Corbett in Amblecote and the surrounding area was designed and produced after much effort, research and presentation by Helen Cook.

It looked magnificent and contained plentiful, interesting historical information which attracted a lot of attention with positive comments from the public and indeed from Corbett family relatives themselves, some of whom had flown in from the USA.

The birthday anniversary was also marked at midday by a synchronised peal of bells from Amblecote Holy Trinity and Saint Michael's Brierley Hill with local churches in the Droitwich area.

The "Salt King 200" project was the biggest Amblecote History Society have been involved in and proved to be a justified testimony to a man who did so much in our area to benefit the community.

Warm welcome to newcomers

Dudley Widows & Friends Circle

THE next meeting will be held on Saturday (July 8) at 2.15pm in the United Reform Church Hall, Trinity Road, Dudley.

The group would like new members, who would be made very welcome to join the small friendly set-up.

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Brave Tom faces muddy challenge for charity

CANCER survivor Tom Griffiths has watched with envy as his mother wallowed in mud, scrambled down sludgy slides and through boggy ground in the name of charity

And this year he will join in the fun himself!

The eight-year-old supported his mother Emma from the sidelines when she took part in Cancer Research UK's Pretty Muddy event.

So Tom – known to his mates as 'Tommy G' – was first in the queue when he heard that Race for Life was staging its first ever Pretty Muddy Kids. The Tipton schoolboy says he can't wait to emulate his mother and get covered in mud at the event which is designed specifically for children. The course includes child-friendly mud-based obstacles and is around 2km long.

Leukaemia

Tom was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2013 at the age of four after complaining of persistent pains in his legs. Chemotherapy treatment meant Tom missed around half of his reception year at Tividale Community Primary School, but he made up for lost time when the intensive part of his treatment was over.

In July last year Tom finished his treatment and his family feel that life has returned to normal.

Emma, 42, said: "We thought we were going to lose him when we first heard the word 'cancer'. But amazingly Tom went into remission after only four weeks of treatment and he's never looked back. We're now down to appointments every four months.

"He loves to get involved, so he was desperate to join in when I did Race for Life Pretty Muddy. He was delighted when he heard about Pretty Muddy Kids – it will be my turn to stand on the sidelines as he has a whale of a time and hurls mud at me."

Emma will not be missing out, she is taking part in the adult Race for Life Pretty Muddy event at Cofton Park in Longbridge later the same day.

Emma added: "We hope boys and girls across the region will join him at Pretty Muddy Kids. It's a great opportunity to have fun while making a real difference in the fight against cancer."

The Race for Life family of events also includes the 5km Pretty Muddy adult course, which thousands of women will take part in at the same venue on July 15. To enter Race for Life Pretty Muddy Kids visit racefor life.org or call 0300 123 0770.

Tom Griffiths, aged 8, gets ready for a 'muddy good time' with mum Emma

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Predator sent to jail for grooming girl, 13

A MAN who groomed a schoolgirl over the internet by pretending to be a 15-year-old boy has been jailed.

Paul Hawker encouraged the 13-year-old to set up a secret online file where they could share private messages and photos, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 55-year-old, of Woodsetton, also created a second fake identity, pretending to be the boy's 17-year-old sister 'to keep the fantasy going' after she 'went quiet on him', said Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting.

He was found out after the victim's parents took her iPad as a joke and were suspicious about what they felt was an over-reaction by her.

Hawker told the girl how to download instant messanger app Kik so they could chat exclusively without others seeing the content, the court was told. He engaged her in general chat for a couple of days before asking her for photos of herself and, at bedtimes, talking about 'kissing and cuddling'.

Messages

Hawker also enticed her to perform a sex act, explaining step by step through internet messages what she should do, telling her not to be shy and to send naked photos of herself, although this did not happen.

Hawker had previously been sentenced to four months in prison for four offences of taking indecent photographs and two of gross indecency with an underage child between 1998 - 1999.

Defending, Mr Stephen Hamblett said Hawker, of Parkes Hall Road, had no intention of meeting the girl and that he had mental health issues.

Hawker pleaded guilty to inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. He was jailed for three years and four months and made the subject of a sexual harm prevention order.

Festival to boost business

Chamber chief executive Corin Crane, left, Andy Cox and Ralph Findlay, right, at the launch of the Black Country Business Festival

MORE than 100 exhibitions, trade shows and conferences will feature at the new Black Country Business Festival next spring.

These will be held across Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton from April 23 to May 4 in a free event showcasing industry of all kinds. The festival is intended to be a platform to bring in investment and stimulate economic growth and was launched at Wolverhampton's Light House Media Centre.

From July 17, businesses and organisations can start making applications to run events at www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com or get involved as sponsors, in promoting events and providing venues.

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It would be great to see you on the day so pop in any time between 10am and 4pm and please tell your friends and family.

Best Wishes
Dave Walters, Managing Director

OPEN DAY

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More than 30 cars halted in speed blitz

THIRTY two vehicles were stopped during a speeding crackdown run by police on a 'dangerous' road in Stourbridge.

One car was also seized for having no tax as police conducted a community speedwatch on Norton Road last Wednesday.

The drivers who were stopped were advised about the speed limits and were also shown a safety video.

The road has 30mph speed limit and that was reduced from 40mph in 2013 following a spate of accidents, including the death of an elderly woman in 2011.

Busy

Ward councillor Heather Rogers said: "It's a dangerous road and there's been quite a few accidents there in the past, so speeding is a problem.

"It's a very busy road, particularly in the evening.

"I'm very pleased police are out in force and hopefully they'll start to slow down."

Tax office worker in 'despicable' fraud

Rebecca Gray, 32, was given a suspended sentence

A TAX office worker acted 'despicably' by fraudulently claiming more than £56,000 in tax credits over seven years, a court heard.

Rebecca Gray, a customer services officer at the Dudley tax office, was in 'a unique position' to know that what she was doing was wrong, a judge told her.

Gray, aged 32, was spared a prison sentence after the court heard that she had lied when she claimed she had split from her partner and had moved into her grandfather's Wolverhampton home, making her eligible for a single parent's tax credit allowance.

The mother-of-four had also understated the amount of maternity pay she received, which then entitled her to more maternity credit, whilst overstating the child care cover she needed.

She joined the Dudley tax office in 2006 when she started making a joint claim with her partner for child tax credits, said Ms Lynette McClement, prosecuting.

Gray had alleged that her relationship with her partner broke down in July 2014, and she started claiming single parent's tax credits, when in fact she was still living with him in Lower Gornal.

Sacked

Her partner was not facing similar charges because the false claims were made in her name.

Gray, who was sacked from her job at the tax office, was arrested in March last year.

A check with her grandfather showed that she had not lived at his address for 11 years.

Gray had benefitted by £100 a week in maternity benefits and £275 a week in child care costs.

The overpayment between 2009 to 2016, came to a total of £56,344, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Gray, of Brookdale, Lower Gornal, pleaded guilty to four offences contravening the Tax Credit Act.

She was sentenced to two years jail suspended for two years and was alsi given a 12-month supervision order.

Recorder Nicholas Syfret, QC, told her: "You behaved despicably. You were in a unique position to know that what you were doing was wrong."

Derelict land is lined up for 140 homes under new proposal

INDUSTRIAL land in Coseley which has been blighted by anti-social behaviour will be transformed and turned into 140 homes, under proposals.

An application has been submitted to Dudley Council for the overhaul of the site, off Darkhouse Lane.

The developer hopes to turn the currently derelict 13-acre site near Rosewood Primary School into a new housing estate of up to 142 homes.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley said he welcomed the outline planning proposals as a potential noost to the area if they get the go-ahead.

A previous application for the land was approved in 2013 but no development has taken place on the site.

The new plans have been submitted by Clive Jessup from Cannock. The outline proposals would include a noise 'buffer' constructed to ward against noise pollution.

A design and planning statement submitted as part of the application says: "Despite the site being allocated as employment land, it is understood Dudley Council have expressed a willingness to consider the site's potential for residential development."

Youngster injured in attack near school

A PUPIL was attacked and left with minor injuries outside a Sedgley school last Thursday morning.

Police were called to High Arcal School, in High Arcal Drive, at 8.50am.

Headteacher Jo Bull said: "There was an incident off school grounds where one of our pupils was attacked. We carried out our standard safety procedures and informed police immediately. The pupil was left with minor injuries and the matter is now in the hands of the police."

Police spokesperson Kate Baker said: "Officers were called to reports of a disorder at High Arcal School at around 8:50am. Officers were at the school speaking to pupils and teachers to establish what happened."

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The famous BBC test screen that displayed when shows ended

Champion John Newcombe and Wilhelm Bungert after the 1967 final

The 1967 Wimbledon final was the first event broadcast in colour

Scenes like this may still be common in some homes – some in the West Midlands

Colour TV? No, some still watch in black and white

MEMORY LANE

By Jessica Labhart

COLOUR television has now turned 50 – but some people in the West Midlands are still watching in black and white.

Figures have been released to mark the milestone of the first colour transmission on the BBC.

TV Licensing says more than 8,000 homes across the UK still watch programmes in black and white.

The TV Licensing B&W Index shows large urban areas hold the majority of black and white TV licences, with 45 people in Wolverhampton, 22 in Walsall as well as a staggering 377 in Birmingham watching black and white transmissions.

One explanation could be cost, as a colour licence costs £147 and a black and white licence costs £49.50.

Mark Whitehouse, TV licensing spokesman for the West Midlands, said: "It is striking that in an era of HD TV and spectacular true-to-life pictures, there are still more than 8,000 viewers content to watch spectacular programmes like The Night Manager and Planet Earth in monochrome.

"Whether you watch in black and white on a 50-year-old TV set or in colour on a tablet, you need to be covered by a TV licence to watch or record programmes as they are broadcast.

"You also need to be covered by a TV licence to download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer, on any device."

While the figures reveal there may be life in the oldest TV equipment yet, BBC statistics indicate emerging technologies are changing the way many of us watch TV altogether.

Fewer than 500 families had a colour TV set in 1967 when Australian John Newcombe took the Wimbledon mens' title by thrashing Wilhelm Bungert.

Comparatively, more than nine million people tuned in to watch Sir Andy Murray lift the title for a second time last year, beating Milos Raonic in straight sets.

BBC iPlayer recorded the highest unique browser reach on record, with an average of 19.9 million unique browsers weekly across June 2016.

The first colour transmission went out on July 1, 1967 on BBC Two.

The Wimbledon Tennis Championships marked the beginning of regular colour television in the UK, with David Attenborough, then controller of BBC Two, announcing the channel would initially broadcast in colour for around five hours a week.

Just a handful of colour sets were in use at the start of colour transmissions, but by 1968 most BBC Two programmes were in colour and by 1977, sales of colour TV licences had overtaken numbers of black and white licences.

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Help plea at fun day in the park

A FESTIVAL takes place this weekend, and is expected to attract more than 7,000 visitors.

Netherton Park in Dudley holds its annual festival on Saturday from 10am.

There will be a vast array of activities available on the day to interest both young and old, including a bouncy castle. quad biking, children's rides and market stalls.

There will also be a classic car display, with Dudley Zoo among the exhibitors.

There will also be two live outdoor stages running throughout the day.

The main stage will run until 9pm behind Netherton Arts Centre.

Stage activities will include live bands, dancing, singers, karate groups and cheer leaders.

Fantastic

Richard Johnson, from the Friends of Netherton Park, said: "I am sure it will be a great day again. This year will be the twelfth year we have put on the event with it growing year on year, providing a fantastic free event for the whole family."

Organisers have put out a call for volunteers to help.

Volunteers are sought to help with the set up and direct stall holders between 8am and 10.30am. Stewarding will involve walking the site and directing visitors around the site and manning some activities and areas. Email friends@nethertonpark.com

FOCUS ON NETHERTON

Former caretaker's house could become a nursery

A FORMER caretaker's house will be demolished with a new nursery built in its place, under new plans.

The replacement building in the grounds of Netherbook Primary, in Netherton, will be used for childcare for two- and three-year-olds.

It will also 'deliver before and after school provision'. A lack of places has sparked the move, with the school initially planning to revamp the caretaker's house – before proving too expensive.

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "A lot of schools now are doing similar things – using caretaker's buildings for classes.

Extending

"All schools need to make best use of the land they have got. I would support this move, particularly if it will be able to be used for the community."

A council report says: "This project sits on the site of a former caretaker's house within the school grounds. Initial work was carried out looking at the feasibility of extending the caretaker's house to include childcare space downstairs and some office space upstairs. The proposed end solution was to extend and alter the caretaker's house.

By David Cosgrove

However this proposal didn't give value for money, and the spaces could not be designed to work efficiently.

"It was therefore agreed that the best solution should be to demolish the caretaker's house and replace this with a purpose-built childcare facility.

"The headteacher and governors of Netherbrook School are keen to see the project developed to support their 'community school' ethos to aid transitions and to support parents to have access to good quality childcare for two- and three-year-olds in order to increase their current working hours or to seek work. In addition, the premises will also deliver before and after school provision including holiday play schemes."

The Dancing Grannies – aka the Fizzogs – are in pantomime action in December

Fizzogs are all set for a wizard show

FIZZOG productions is to stage a seasonal pantomime-style show that is a parody of the musical Wicked and the Wizard of Oz.

Wicked Wizard of Fizzog is being presented in Netherton Arts Centre from December 14-16. It will also go on tour around the region in the new year.

The Wicked Wizard of Fizzog combines the most classic story of all time with a multi-award winning musical.

It follows the tale of two young witches whose friendship turns sour. When Dorothy turns up trying to find her way home with the help of her new mates, she gets caught in the middle of their ongoing feud.

Tickets for the show suitable for audiences from 14-years-old are £15 from the website www.thefizzogs.com

Graveyard strimming cut anger

VOLUNTEERS have criticised Dudley Council's decision to reduce the amount of times graveyards are trimmed.

A total of 20 closed churchyards – including St Andrew's in Netherton – are now cut just twice a year instead of seven in a bid to save £15,000 a year. Councillor Susan Ridney called for a rethink over reducing the number of times they were trimmed.

She said: "People have been complaining that they cannot get up to graves. It is such a great shame.

Budget

In Christ Church Lye the grass used to be cut around six times a year, then it got reduced due to budget cuts and now we've been told it's down to two."

The council is responsible for maintaining 20 closed CofE churchyards, including St Andrew's, Netherton, St Michaels, Brierley Hill, Sedgley Old Cemetery, St John's, Kates Hill, Dudley and Christ Church in Lye.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet memberfor environmental services, said: "The council is responsible for maintaining 20 closed C of E churchyards, many of which came into the council's care decades ago. When the council adopts closed churchyards, it does so without any extra funding for maintenance and we have continued to provide maintenance despite reduced budgets."

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Mantique auction sparks a whole lot of interest

ALL 40 rare firemen's helmets went and a £4k locomotive nameplate capped the lot as more than £100,000 was spent at an auction targeted at men.

Internet bids came from as far away as New Zealand, the Middle East and America when 630 items went under the hammer at Fieldings Auctioneers in Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge on Saturday.

Around 200 people – some travelling from South Wales, the West Country and Norfolk – attended in person while 500 more registered to bid via the internet from around the world.

"It was a phenomenal success," said Mark Hannam, who handled the sale of 300 of the lots with the remainder being split between colleagues.

Gloves signed by Muhammad Ali

Mark Hannam with a fire helmet lot

The locomotive nameplate that fetched the highest – £4,500

Leather

It was the firm's annual Mantiques auction, so called because it featured items most likely to appeal to males.

The fire service helmets – all from the 19th and 20th century – each fetched between £200 and £700, depending on the rarity and brigade they came from.

They were made from leather, brass or chrome with several coming from the fire service at the former Marsh and Baxter meat factory in Brierley Hill. There was even one from the Windsor Castle fire brigade.

A 450-strong collection of tampers, used to damp down the tobacco in a pipe, were all sold after being broken into 44 separate lots, with six strong sets fetching around £300.

One with a 'peep show' of an Edwardian lady getting undressed for a bath visible through a tiny hole in the top of the implement was sold for £150. A set of 20 silent movie posters was snapped up by a collector in America and 24 coins commemorating Royal events cost a bidder in the Middle East £700.

A medal awarded to Pte S Popple 2/24th foot who was wounded in the battle of IsandIwana during the Zulu wars on January 22 1879 topped £4,000 but the star of the show was the nameplate of Sir Arthur Yorke, a Bulldog class Great Western steam locomotive built in 1906 and withdrawn in 1949. It went for £4,500.

A pair of signed Muhammad Ali gloves fetched £900. They were signed by the boxing great at a charity auction in Perry Barr in 1983 and were sold by Peter Plevey, 73, of Kinver, who had paid £500 for them.

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Final stages for Darby monument

THE final design of a monument in Woodsetton paying tribute to pioneer of the industrial revolution is being drawn up.

Plans are in the pipeline for a statue designed by Dudley artist Steve Field to commemorate Abraham Darby, who was born in Woodsetton in 1679. He found a much quicker method of producing iron, which helped to spark the industrial revolution.

Upper Gornal and Woodsetton Councillor Keiran Casey, who is helping to organise the project, said: "We are in the final stages of agreeing a design for the memorial."

Darby's grandson Abraham Darby III went on to build the world-famous Iron Bridge in Shropshire, which opened in 1781.

Nurse is struck off after theft and producing false reference

A NURSE who stole diazepam tablets and then produced a fake reference has been struck off.

Katie Louise Prince was given a community order after stealing the tablets from Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley in January last year.

The 37-year-old, of Stickley Lane, Lower Gornal, was suspended by the nursing watchdog and, as part of the disciplinary process, was asked to provide testimonials from employers. A review panel noticed the writing in an employer's reference she provided was 'strikingly similar' to her own handwriting.

Following an urgent reconsideration of her case by a Nursing and Midwifery Council disciplinary committee, she has now been struck off.

Miss Prince admitted stealing the tablets, worth £1.50, at Black Country Magistrates' Court in February last year. As a result, she was suspended and asked for testimonials from employers about her 'honesty and integrity'. After the NMC became aware of the false reference, attempts were made to contact her but she did not respond and she didn't attend a hearing in London.

Panel chair Andrew Gell said: " We determined that it was necessary to take action to prevent Miss Prince from practising in the future."

Arenas will give city 'the edge'

FOUR major arenas have been identified as the cornerstones of Birmingham's bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

City centre venues Symphony Hall and the Barclaycard Arena would play a major part, while the NEC and Genting Arena, near Birmingham Airport, have also been selected.

Members of the Birmingham 2022 Steering Group say that they have the edge over major rivals for the event, Liverpool, with 95 per cent of the city's venues already up and running with the second city ready to deliver on time.

£9m for arts and museum

Visitors watch a costumed demonstration at the Black Country Living Museum

MUSEUMS and art centres in the Black Country are to receive almost £9 million in funding from the Arts Council England.

The national organisation has unveiled its investment plans for the next four years which now includes Wolverhampton's Newhampton Arts Centre, which is to receive a total of £720,000, £180,000 a year.

The centre is one of seven organisations being funded by the council through its National Portfolio. The other six will receive funding at the same level as 2017/18, £8,694,480 over four years from 2018 to 2022.

The other six organisations receiving funding are Wolverhampton Art Gallery, the Arena Theatre on Wulfruna Street, The Black Country Living Museum, the New Art Gallery, Walsall, Black Country Touring and Sandwell's Multistory.

Newhampton Arts Centre manager Christine McGowan said: "This is a real vote of confidence for us and the work we do. We are absolutely delighted.

"We have been surviving for the last few years without any funding at all and so we have demonstrated that we are sustainable, efficient, and really needed in the community."

Peter Knott, area director, Arts Council England said: "We're delighted to unveil our ambitious new portfolio reaching more people in more places across the Midlands than ever before.

"The Arts Council is investing more money than ever before outside London, we're introducing 42 new organisations, including museums and libraries for the first time, as well as continuing to fund current organisations. "

Airline offers new routes to the sun

AIRLINE and holiday group Monarch has launched a string of new routes from Birmingham Airport, starting with flights to Valencia.

The first flights to Spain's third biggest city have already started, along with services to Rome, Rhodes, Naples in southern Italy and Split on the Croatian coast.

Monarch is the only airline to fly to Split and Valencia from Birmingham with both destinations new to its summer 2017 network.

The inaugural Valencia trip was kicked off in style with customers on the flight treated to a glass of bubbly and slice of paella-themed cake – Valencia proudly claims to be the home of the traditional Spanish rice dish.

Monarch's chief commercial officer Ian Chambers said: "We're really pleased to be flying a greatly expanded programme from Birmingham for the summer with more city and beach destinations."

Flats plan at old pub

A FORMER pub in Dudley is set to be converted into five flats.

Plans have been lodged with Dudley Council planners o convert the Ivy House Inn, on Watsons Green Road, Kates Hill.

The Ivy House closed after more than 100 years as a pub in Dudley.

A design statement from agents ZSP said the conversion to flats would improve the area and would have minimal impact on neighbouring properties.

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Growing business is clearly a favourite with its customers

Attractive doors and windows complement the room setting

Claire Stockley (Sales) and Dan Butcher (Business)

Commercial feature

MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday. 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors ,sliding patio doors , french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

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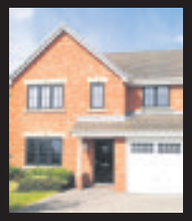

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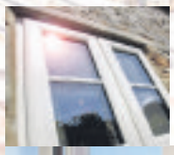

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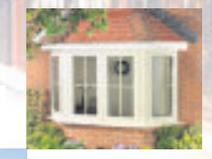

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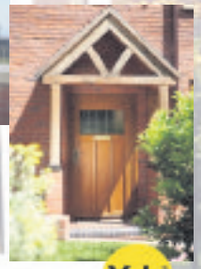

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Knife crime soars with seven offences a day

KNIFE crime in the West Midlands has shot up in the last two years, latest figures show.

There were 654 knife crimes recorded between October and December last year – around seven a day. This compares with 388 in the same period in 2014 –an increase of 68.5 per cent.

The figures were revealed just days after yet another violent death on the streets of the Black Country.

James Brindley, aged 26, died in his parents' arms after being stabbed on Little Aston Road in Aldridge. He was making his way home after a night out when he was attacked.

In the last five years a total of 8,519 knife crimes have been committed across the whole of the West Midlands. This figure includes 64 homicides, which include murder or manslaughter, and 125 attempted murders. This averages out at more than four homicides or attempted murders a month since 2012 across the region.

Incidents

The number of knife crimes has also increased every quarter, bar one, since December 2014. The worst period for homicides was between January and March 2015 when there were nine incidents. The worst for attempted murder was between October and December 2015 with 13.

Not a single three month period has gone by since 2012 when there has not been an incident of attempted murder involving a knife. October to December of 2012 is the only period without a knife-related death.

The most recent quarter on record, between October and December last year, has recorded the highest number of knife crimes in the past five years.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Kate Baker said: "The rise in knife crime in the West Midlands mirrors an increase nationally but it's important to remember not all knife crime offences result in injury being caused."

Angel of hope is created

The Angel of Hope sculpture. It took two years to create and has already come to be seen as a national monument against knife crime

THEY are used to threaten and endanger lives, bringing pain, tragedy and heartbreak to victims and their families.

But now 100,000 knives and blades given up by members of the public have been turned into a piece of art. The Knife Angel, made by artist Alfie Bradley, was unveiled recently at the British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry, near Shrewsbury.

It took two years to create and has already come to be seen as a national monument against knife crime. The 25ft-high sculpture was the culmination of a Save A Life, Surrender Your Knife campaign to help get knives and other bladed weapons off the streets.

The knives came from a number of police forces across the country, including West Midlands, collected in knife surrender bins.

£80 fines threat over dogs left to run loose

DOG owners could be hit with £80 on-the-spot fines for having their pets off leads near schools under tough new measures.

Under the new Public Spaces Protection Order all dogs would have to be kept on leads within 100-metres of all the city's schools and academies, and also alongside 'major arterial roads'.

And if they are caught breaking those rules they could then be hit with one of the penalties.

Conservative group leader Wendy Thompson said the plans were like 'using a sledgehammer to crack a nut' – as most dog owners are responsible. But cabinet member Steve Evans said the move 'encouraged responsible dog ownership' in the city.

Councillor Evans, cabinet member for city environment, said: "Various dog control orders which we have had in place for the past decade will be coming to an end later this year.

"The proposed new public space protection order will consolidate the previous three orders made in 2007 and will also seek to make

By David Cosgrove

slight changes by increasing the number of arterial roads that dogs are required to be kept on a lead and create new controls for dogs near schools."

Those who do not comply with the order will be taken to court and face a fine of up to £1,000.

Councillor Thompson said: "Most dog owners are very responsible and can decide themselves if they think it is safe to let their dogs off the lead."

A consultation runs until July 14, with the tougher dog ban due to be scrutinised at a cabinet meeting on July 19.To have a say visit wolverhampton.gov.uk/ar ticle/10986/Dog-Control-Consultation

Aspiring pop star's vision of RICHS

With his debut single musician RICHS

AN aspiring pop star from the Black Country has released his first single on a label from the region.

Richard Meredith – whose stage name is RICHS – has brought out 'See My Vision' on Wolverhampton-based Strawberry Moon Records. The former Codsall High Pupil, who set up the RSM Stage Academy, is hoping to make his mark in the music world.

The single is described as 'an up-tempo, airy summer dance track'. A video for the track – which has not yet been released – was directed and produced by Benjamin Harrap, who has previously worked with rocker Jake Bugg.

Meredith, who left school in 2003, is no stranger to training with some of the world's best performers. After auditioning for theatre school, he was offered a full scholarship to train on a three year musical theatre course under the guidance of the Trinity College, London. He has also featured on TV shows Doctors, Casualty and Hustle.

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The majestic creatures have been seen roaming the wooded areas, taking a drink from the secluded ponds and lakes

My close encounter with majestic beasts was unforgettable

IMAGINE walking through heathland and encountering deer sauntering along a pebbled path just 10ft in front of you.

Well, that's what happened to me when I visited Chasewater Country Park, and it was a truly unforgettable experience, writes Elizabeth Littley.

On the evening in question two young red deer, one hind and one stag, appeared from the embankment at the side of the railway track and made their way slowly along the gravelled footpath in front of me.

The graceful hind stopped every few minutes to feed on the low growing trees, while the watchful stag followed close behind, occasionally turning to keep his eye on me.

I have spotted these majestic creatures roaming the wooded areas, taking a drink from the secluded ponds and lakes, or grazing on the low growing trees and shrubs.

Most sightings have been on Chasewater Heaths and neighbouring Norton Bog, but I have also encountered them in the wooded areas near the North Shore, by the side of the 'Wetland Walk' boardwalk, and on the grassy banks near the dam.

I have seen them on their own, in twos or threes, or in small herds. Mothers and their calves roam around in small groups, while stags are a less common sight.

Witnessed

On a sunny day last January, however, I did see three large-antlered stags sunbathing on the embankment near the dam.

They were totally unperturbed by the numerous amounts of people who were stopping to take their picture.

I've also stood on a hillside and witnessed a roaring stag guarding his harems of hinds on an area of heathland below me.

Recently the deer have been on the move and venturing further into Burntwood.

They have been spotted grazing on grass opposite a supermarket, and there have been sightings of them wandering from lawn to lawn on housing estates, over a mile from the country park.

The deer population is expanding across the UK, and Chasewater and the surrounding areas are no exception. The lack of natural and human predators, warm winters and good food supplies has helped them to thrive, especially in new environments. Chasewater and Norton Bog are good feeding grounds as the wet and dry heathlands contain established and recently planted shrubs, plants and trees. Chasewater is also a perfect habitat for these herbivores as it contains fens, woods, pools and ponds.

There have been sightings of red deer at Chasewater and the surrounding areas since the 1980s. No-one is sure where the deer originated from, although Cannock Chase, which is well-known for its deer population, is only five miles away and connected fields, paths and quiet country routes have probably led to the deer making their way into new habitats, including Chasewater. In fact, nowadays you are more likely to see deer on Chasewater than any other wild creature.

The deer have been on the move and venturing further into Burntwood

The deer population is expanding across the UK

Mothers and their calves roam around in small groups

More than 50 addresses on ambulance blacklist

DOZENS of homes in the Black Country and Staffordshire are blacklisted by West Midlands Ambulance Service over fears for paramedics' safety.

Police escorts are required for ambulance staff visiting 52 addresses in the West Midlands which have been flagged up as 'dangerous places'. They include properties in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Dudley, Wyre Forest and Staffordshire.

The addresses become blacklisted on the back of reports by paramedics from previous visits. Reasons range from dangerous dogs, attacks on staff and verbal abuse.

Letters are written to the addresses, where possible, and they are reviewed regularly by ambulance bosses.

Spokesman Murray McGregor said: "If a crew go to a place where they have been assaulted, they will report it in their paperwork – it is then it will get flagged up.

"We can write to the address, tell them the situation, but in some cases we have to take action.

"It is about ensuring the safety of our staff while they go about their work."

The number of blacklisted addresses has fallen from 79 in 2015 but in 2011 there were just 11. The figures for attacks on ambulance staff continue to rise.

Comic Jo tops the bill at laughter night

Jo Enright appeared in Life's Too Short and The Job Lot

BRUMMIE stand-up and comic actress Jo Enright is set to headline tonight's (Thursday's) Kum-n-avaloff comedy night at Stourbridge Town Hall.

Jo appeared alongside Peter Kay in Phoenix Nights, with Steve Coogan in I'm Alan Partridge and played the female lead in Life's Too Short, directed by Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant. Most recently, she received rave reviews for her part of Angela in three series of ITV's The Job Lot.

Character

Jo will be joined at the monthly comedy night by host Dan Smith, fast-rising Geordie comedian Rahul Kohli and Wolverhampton character comic Jack Kirwan.

Tickets are £8 plus booking fee and the ticket price includes curry and rice (vegetarian option available), which will be served during the interval.

Stourbridge's Kum-n-avaloff comedy nights have been running since 2003 and take place on the first Thursday of every month.

See boroughhalls.co.uk or call (01384) 812812.

Award nomination for headteacher

A PRIMARY school headteacher has been praised by police for her work improving relations between officers and the community.

Emma Burnell, headteacher at Tividale Primary School, has been nominated for the West Midland Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award.

Mrs Burnell created a programme to tackle negative perceptions about policing in the community. The neighbourhood police team have reported positive changes in community relations as a result.

Mrs Burnell said: "I'm surprised and slightly humbled to be nominated. But I feel privileged to be representing the work of everyone involved. We are all working in partnership to do our job, which is ultimately to help ensure children succeed and progress academically."

The awards ceremony is taking place today (Thursday) at Edgbaston Cricket Ground.

Judge says veteran bus driver unfairly sacked for one mistake

A VETERAN bus driver sacked for running a red light has won an unfair dismissal claim against his former bosses.

Abdul Jabbar, 59, of Dudley, was sacked by National Express West Midlands in October 2015 after CCTV footage captured him running the light in King Street, Dudley.

But he claimed the dismissal was totally over-the-top for one mistake in an unblemished career of more than 30 years behind the wheel.

Now, after a hearing before an employment tribunal, Judge Glyn Lloyd has ruled the sacking 'unfair' and that Mr Jabbar is entitled to compensation.

"The claimant is a bus driver of exemplary record," said the judge. "He has worked for the respondent without any disciplinary taint for some 37 years. What he did was – and we accept it was – a five-second momentary lapse of concentration."

However, despite ruling the sacking unfair, Judge Lloyd said Mr Jabbar's age and race discrimination claims had not been proved. The case will return to the employment tribunal.

Popular spin bikes soon arriving at gym

VISITORS to a leisure centre will be in a spin when the popular bikes are replaced next month.

The spin bikes are used in spinning sessions, at Halesowen Leisure Centre, where a fitness trainer puts groups of users through their paces in a motivational and challenging group cycling session on static bikes.

The original bikes were installed seven years ago with grant assistance from Public Health and West Midlands Police. The popularity of the spin sessions has meant that the bikes have been subject to heavy use and are now near the end of their useful life.

The centre is investing £5,000 in 11 bikes,10 for class members, one for the instructor. For more information call (01384) 812800, or see dudley.gov.uk/sport website.

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RICK'S READY TO ROLL AT CHASE GIG

INSIDE

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Rick: Angels really are on my side

When Rick Astley walked away from the music business at the age of 27, he imagined that would be that. The singer had sold the best part of 40 million records and his 1987 song Never Gonna Give You Up had been a number one hit single in 25 countries and won a Brit Award.

His retirement in 1993 was meant to be for real. And when he re-emerged in 2007, he imagined it would be just for laughs and a few bob here and there. The last thing he expected was hitting number one on the album chart at the age of 50.

And yet the singer has led a charmed life. He only joined his band, FBI, because the singer had left for a career as a hairdresser. And he only came to the attention of Pete Waterman because he was working as a recording studio tea boy, or so the story goes.

"I don't think anybody around me or anybody who knows me was expecting that, to have a number one album in the UK again. That was pretty freaky."

Rick went to number one last year and has been riding the crest of a wave ever since. He's played sold out shows across the UK and is back to headline Saturday's Cannock Chase gig for Forest Live, with special guest Rumer.

He wasn't particularly nervous about the release of 50. He had realistic expectations – that didn't involve getting to number one. He hoped the record would be well promoted and that people would, a) get to hear it, and, b) enjoy it.

"In a lot of ways, no, really, there wasn't any pressure. I didn't have anything to be nervous about — because, like I said, we didn't really have any expectations. I made this record myself in my own studio at home. I wrote it all, produced it, played all the instruments. It was a labour of love. It's been something I kind of wanted to do to mark my 50th birthday, which was this year, but obviously I was making the record last year. I didn't anticipate anything fantastic happening. I just kind of thought, 'Well, we'll see how we can put the record out and we'll see how it goes'."

The most remarkable aspect of 50 was its sheer quality. A spiritual record, it was deeply soulful and rich in sound. Rick was happy with that aspect of it – and thrilled that it earned him a gold disc by selling more than a quarter of a million copies.

"I think, for me, even as a small kid, I sang in choirs — at the church choir, school choir. They weren't gospel choirs, that's for sure, but the idea of singing with other people. When I was having Never Gonna Give You Up and a couple of the other hits, I wouldn't have thought that deeply about certain lyrics, I don't think, because they were pop songs — It was like, 'girl meets boy, boom', you know. Having lived a bit longer now, I think certain things that have happened in my life have definitely changed the way I feel about things.

"The song Angels On My Side is about the fact that I have two elder brothers and an older sister and they looked out for me a lot. My mum and dad got divorced – and obviously, my mum and dad looked after me – but I'm saying having older brothers and an older sister, that could have gone one of two ways. They could have neglected the youngest kid, and I don't think they did. I think they looked after me. That's happened right through my career, as well: I've had good people around me. I've still got most of my sanity. And I've still got some money, which is a freaky thing in this industry sometimes. When people have a pop career, they kind of get churned up and thrown out the other end, and they have a disastrous life sometimes after it. And I've had a charmed, amazing life."

Rick had a testing childhood because his mum and dad lost a son before he was born and became very unhappy, before going their separate ways. That upbringing led him to music because he found his escape by singing.

"When you're around two people who are very, very, very unhappy, i.e. your parents, it's really tough – and that's why I got into music, I think. I wanted to be at the school choir. I wanted to be at church, even though I wasn't necessarily very religious. I just wanted to be somewhere else with people my own age and singing really helped me. One of the songs on the album is called Keep Singing, and that's kind of, again, what that is about – that singing's been good for me."

And yet Rick didn't imagine that he'd be as successful as he's been. He certainly didn't anticipate becoming a star in the USA, where Whenever You Need Somebody became a double platinum album.

"To be honest, having success in America, a couple number ones and a few top tens, you kind of think, 'It doesn't get any bigger than that'. But then again, I would look at other artists around my time — if you look at George Michael's career through the 80s and into the 90s and stuff, I mean, it's on a different league, a different level. Another British guy, obviously. So I think, to be fair, it was four or five years of being really famous. And I wouldn't swap it for anything: It was an amazing experience, you know, because I made quite a lot of money. And I'm one of those people who actually wants to say that, because the way I look at the money side of it is that it bought me freedom. I've been free to do a lot of other things that I wanted to do. Nothing maybe too extravagant, but just freedom."

Rick headlines the Forest Live gig on Cannock Chase on Saturday

I've had good people around me. I've still got most of my sanity

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Watermill's Romeo And Juliet

Oh Romeo, bar-crossed lovers meet in a night club

Medieval Italy is swapped for a modern night club in Watermill Theatre's vibrant new production of Romeo And Juliet, part of the touring theatre company's short Shakespeare season at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Music by rock band The Vaccines, folk-rock stars Mumford and Sons and singer-songwriter Hozier feature in Paul Hart's explosive production of Shakespeare's tale of all-consuming young love compromised by family loyalty.

Romeo And Juliet is given a contemporary feel by a cast of actor-musicians in a production that also features original music by Johnny Flynn, from TV's Brotherhood and Lovesick. It is being performed at 2.30pm and again at 7.30 on Wednesday, July 12.

Then, on Thursday and Friday evening, July 13 and 14, Watermill will stage a 1920s-set version of Twelfth Night featuring jazz music by Duke Ellington, Django Reinhardt and Louis Armstrong.

Director Paul Hart said: "A jazz club seems the perfect setting for Twelfth Night given the play's obsession with music, love and excess.

"Featuring live music performed by our multi-talented company, the soundtrack will be 1920s influenced with a modern twist."

Tickets start from £12.50 (plus £3 booking fee), see grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Grand concert to celebrate hospice

A unique concert featuring local, national and international talent will be held in Wolverhampton to mark 35 years of Compton Hospice.

Ethos – The Best of Times, produced and directed for Compton Hospice by Jeremy Hobbs, will be an emotional blend of music, song and dance highlighting the work of the city's hospice. It is being held at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next Saturday, July 15, and the evening will culminate with the 100 Voices of the Celebration Choir, celebrating the joy of life.

Composer and concert pianist Luke Faulkner, pictured, with Aimee Fisher and Lauren Soley from the London cast of Les Miserables will be performing I Dreamed A Dream and On My Own. Tony O'Rourke, who will be remembered for his stunning performances at the Grand Theatre in La Cage Aux Folles, will be reprising his show-stopping version of I Am What I Am and Alison Room will tug at the heart strings with Time Heals Everything from Mack And Mabel.

Colette Forsyth, Holly-Ann White and dancers from Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company (Muscom) will be joined by the Denise Robinson School of Dance and exciting young singer Annabel Rockett, national finalist in Rotary International Young Musician of the Year. Violinist Karolina Tomaszewicz will perform the haunting Schindler's List.

Members of the Compton Hospice Choir will be performing together with the 'Pure Imagination' of Nick Sullivan and the children of Newbridge Preparatory School.

Tickets from the box office in Lichfield Street, online at grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Mod dream double bill at the Robin 2

It's the kind of dream gig that can only happen in the alternative universe of the tribute band, a double header of top Mod groups, The Who and the Small Faces.

Who's Who will play on the same bill as the Small Fakers at Bilston's Robin 2 venue next Saturday, July 15. Other highlights at the Robin include acclaimed duo Ezio on July 12 and a 25th anniversary of the opening of the original Robin venue with Soul Survivors featuring Mel Day, pictured, on July 14 at the 1992 door price £6.

Young dance talent in action at festival

U.Dance 2017, the UK's annual youth dance festival, is at Birmingham Hippodrome from July 14 to 16. On the Friday West Midlands-based Motionhouse share the stage with the National Youth Dance Company and groups from London, Edinburgh, Hampshire, Northampton and Brighton. Saturday sees the National Youth Dance Company of Scotland in action with groups including Birmingham's DanceXchange and Kidderminster's Ignite. Sunday's line-up includes Birmingham's ACE Youth and National Youth Dance Wales. Daily tickets are £10/£8. In the Hippodrome, The Patrick Centre hosts Navadal (New Shoots), Akademi's South Asian youth dance contest on Saturday, July 15. Tickets £5. See birminghamhippodrome.com website and onedanceuk.org for U.Dance.

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SATURDAY'S TV JULY 8

CHOICE

Tristram Hunt

Museum of the Year (BBC2, 9.30pm)
Tristram Hunt, the newly appointed director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, presents coverage of Art Fund's 2017 Museum of the Year ceremony. This year, the finalists are London's Tate Modern and John Soane Museum, the Newmarket Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art, Birmingham's Lapworth Museum of Geology, and the Hepworth art gallery in Wakefield. In 2016, the V&A claimed the coveted award, and here, Tristram seeks tips and advice on maintaining its lofty reputation from those responsible for running the museums up for recognition this year.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Wimbledon 2017. Coverage from the All England Club.

6.25 BBC News.

6.35 Regional Programme.

6.45 Pointless Celebrities. Ed Baines, Paul Rankin, Tony Singh, Cyrus Todiwala, Jean-Christophe Novelli, Jo Pratt, Richard Burr and Frances Quinn compete in a "food and drink" themed edition of the quiz. (R)

7.30 Pitch Battle. The choral music contest reaches its fourth heat, as another six diverse groups seek to demonstrate their vocal skills. This time, the ensembles are young chamber choir Tring Park 16, West Midlands-based musical theatre enthusiasts Crescendo, Oxford University a capella group Oxford Alternotives, classical quintet Vox-Xover, all-girl pop ensemble Vocalities, and Dublin barbershop choir The Ramparts. Each group is given a chance to display their speciality with a "showstopper" performance, before battling it out with their rivals in a themed "riff-off".

9.00 Casualty. Ethan discovers Scott's brother Mickey is in a secret relationship with Jez, and he seeks to befriend the lad and turn him against his sibling. However, when Mickey proves to be too terrified to help, Ethan turns to blackmail instead, earning disapproval from both Jez and Alicia. Meanwhile, Connie pulls rank on Sam when he asks for time off to take Grace to a physiotherapy session, and later, Sam spots a chance to undermine Connie while treating a bride who mysteriously collapsed at the altar.

9.50 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.10 Film: Little Fockers. (2010) A father of twins invites his family to his kids' birthday party and tries to finally prove his worth to his father-in-law. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.

11.45 Film: Tropic Thunder. (2008) The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black.

1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Lucky Partners. (1940) **7.35** John Mills: Talking Pictures. (R) **8.15 Film:** Scott of the Antarctic. (1948) **10.00** Athletics: Diamond League Highlights. **11.00** Wimbledon 2017. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00 Film:** Father of the Bride. (1950) Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. **2.30** Wimbledon 2017. Sue Barker presents further live coverage on day six of the third Grand Slam tournament of the year at the All England Club, featuring the third-round matches in the singles draws.

8.30 Today at Wimbledon. Clare Balding introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where the men's and ladies' third-round singles matches were due to reach a conclusion. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Milos Raonic and Andy Murray progressing to the fourth round with respective victories over Jack Sock and John Millman, while Novak Djokovic was dumped out of the tournament on Court One against Sam Querrey.

9.30 Museum of the Year. Tristram Hunt presents coverage of Art Fund's 2017 Museum of the Year ceremony, and meets some of the people responsible for running the museums up for recognition this year.

10.00 Mock the Week. Topical comedy quiz show, hosted by Dara O Briain. (R)

10.30 QI XL. Bill Bailey, Jo Brand and Greg Davies join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Stephen Fry to meander through miscellaneous marriage and mating matters.

11.15 Film: 2001: A Space Odyssey. (1968) Scientists detect a mysterious black monolith on the moon is transmitting a signal to Jupiter. A spacecraft is sent on a mission to investigate the origins of the strange object, but as they near their destination, the astronauts realise the computer controlling the ship is turning against them. Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi epic, with Keir Dullea.

1.30 Film: West. (2014) An East German mother emigrating to West Germany is interrogated about her dead boyfriend, who is suspected of being a spy. Drama, with Jordis Triebel and Tristan Gobel. **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.20 Film:** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. (2002) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Coverage of today's races from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) **5.30** Little Big Shots US.

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.35 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues.

7.30 The Voice Kids. The Blind Auditions are now over, meaning it is time for coaches Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott to begin the difficult process of whittling down the number of would be pop icons in their respective teams. Emma Willis presents as the battle phase gets under way. This time, the youngsters are arranged into groups of three to face another daunting turn on the stage. Only one singer from each trio can make it through to the semi-final, and remain in the running to claim the £30,000 contribution to their musical education – and the family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

9.00 Film: Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench, Ralph Fiennes and Naomi Harris.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) Continued.

12.05 The Chase. (R) **1.00** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Caterham. **6.40** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.05** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.50** Frasier. (R) **9.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.20** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **4.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

7.00 Film: Rise of the Planet of the Apes. (2011) A scientist carries out genetic experiments on apes, hoping to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. A chimpanzee used in the tests develops superior intelligence and becomes outraged at the human race's cruel treatment of his kind, forming his fellow primates into an army to overthrow mankind. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Franco, Freida Pinto and Andy Serkis.

9.00 Film: Bridesmaids. (2011) A disorganised woman is asked to be maid of honour at her best friend's wedding. Taking charge of the prenuptial bridal celebrations, she resolves to give her pal and accompanying bridesmaids the time of their lives, but as her efforts slide into chaos she finds the wife of the groom's boss is keen to usurp her position. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig, Rose Byrne and Melissa McCarthy.

11.20 Film: Red Eye. (2005) A hotelier on a flight to Miami realises a passenger she has befriended is intent on involving her in a political assassination. Thriller, with Rachel McAdams and Cillian Murphy.

12.55 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. A family-built inn with huge debts in Oregon. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Milo helps Cindy to fake a robbery at The Emporium for the sympathy vote in the election, while Jesse takes Grace for a viewing at a potential new club. **3.50** Ackley Bridge. Kaneez is furious to discover that Nas is considering the arranged marriage, but the pressure of her web of lies leads Nas to break down to her mum and confess that she is gay. (R) **4.45** Shipping Wars UK. The race for Transporter of the Week reaches its climax. (R) **5.15** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2. (R) **11.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents chase almost £3,000 owed by Indian takeaway owners, but when the staff deny any knowledge of the debt, the agents threaten to seize kitchen equipment. In east London they face a race against time to recover more than £8,000 from an electrical services company, and in Cheshire the enforcement agents chase nearly £4,000 of debt owed by a mobile phone shop. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Highlights of the third day's play in the First Test of the four-match series, which took place at Lord's. With commentary by Graeme Smith, Geoffrey Boycott, Simon Hughes, Michael Vaughan and Mark Nicholas.

8.00 Blind Date. Paul O'Grady gives more lovelorn singletons a chance at romance. Manchester-based recruitment consultant Antoni must choose which of three self-assured ladies he would like to date, while Alice, a Celine Dion super-fan hopes her musical obsession will not stop her finding a girlfriend on her wavelength.

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother. Featuring games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat, as well as reactions to the latest eviction. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Live Boxing: Josh Taylor vs Ohara Davies. Coverage of the bout for the Commonwealth Super Lightweight title, which takes place at Braehead Arena in Glasgow.

12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10 Film:** The Darkest Hour. (2011) Sci-fi horror, starring Emile Hirsch. **4.40** Access. **4.50** Great Artists. Sculptor, architect and painter Michelangelo. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Britain and the Sea **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00 Film:** Mea Culpa (2014) **10.25** Titanic's Tragic Twin: The Britannic Disaster **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.35** Synth Britannia at the BBC **1.35** Synth Britannia **3.05** Close

ITV2

12.10 Take Me Out **1.20** Catchphrase **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.35 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.30 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **5.35** FYI Daily **5.40 Film:** Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **6.45 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** Step Up 3 (2010) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15 Film:** Bring It On (2000) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** Bring It On (2000) **2.55** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.00 Film: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) **12.05** Bertie and Elizabeth **2.05** Hans Christian Andersen: My Life as a Fairy Tale **4.00** Wycliffe **5.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage eight. **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.00** Better Late Than Never **5.55** Monster Carp **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.05 Film:** Renegades (1989) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Renegades (1989) **11.15 Film:** Awake (2007) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** Awake (2007) **12.55** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** The Hand of God: 30 Years On **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.00 The Goldbergs **3.00 Film:** Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Die Hard 2 (1990) **11.25** Gogglebox **1.35** The Inbetweeners **2.35** Tattoo Fixers **3.30** Rude Tube **4.25** How I Met Your Mother

Film4

11.00 Step Up 4: Miami Heat (2012) **1.00** Moomins on the Riviera (2014) **2.35** Letters to Juliet (2010) **4.40** Men in Black (1997) **6.35** The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011) Comedy drama, starring Judi Dench and Bill Nighy. **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Jennifer Lawrence. **11.20** Solomon Kane (2010) **1.25** I Love You Phillip Morris (2009) **3.35** Close

SUNDAY'S TV JULY 9

CHOICE

Aidan Turner

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)

The French Royalists plan an invasion, which Caroline hopes will lead to Dwight's release. However, Ross is convinced this will only make matters worse, and recruits a band of allies, including Tholly, Zacky, Drake and Henshawe, to help him free Dwight from prison. George schemes to further his political ambitions, and when he learns of Ross' plan, he uses it as a means to discredit his rival, accusing him of recklessness – a charge that may prove true when the rescue mission proves to have fatal consequences. Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Caroline Blakiston, Ossie Whitworth, Ellise Chappell, Beatie Edney and Jack Farthing star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: London Anniversary Games. Gabby Logan presents continued coverage from The Olympic Stadium in London. **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** How to Holiday Better. New series. Cherry Healey and Ade Adepitan find the perfect holiday for members of the public.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani visits a groundbreaking project in Northamptonshire to incorporate wildlife conservation into a retail park. John Craven visits a micro-tannery and goes in search of an elusive butterfly, Adam Henson finds out about an insect farm in Cumbria, and Tom Heap reports on homelessness in rural areas.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould visit a B&B in Aberdeenshire to pick up where the owner's late husband left off in proving that a painting is the work of 19th-century French artist Paul Delaroche. A visit to the British museum raises evidence that this could be a lost treasure once belonging to France's last king and queen, and they head for Normandy to inspect a stained glass window in the image of a lost Delaroche painting – but they also begin to suspect it is a copy, rather than the original. (R)

9.00 Poldark. Ross assembles a band of allies to free Dwight from prison. However, the rescue mission proves to have fatal consequences. George schemes to further his political ambitions.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Sue Barker: Our Wimbledon. The presenter travels the globe meeting Wimbledon greats such as Andy Murray, Roger Federer, Pete Sampras, Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova. (R)

11.45 The Week the Landlords Moved In. A transformative series challenging some of Britain's most successful landlords to spend an eye-opening week living in one of their own rental properties. (R)

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Secrets of the Mona Lisa. (R) **7.00** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **11.30** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **12.15** Athletics: London Anniversary Games. Gabby Logan presents coverage from The Olympic Stadium in London. **1.15 Film:** The Great Caruso. (1951) Musical biopic of opera singer Enrico Caruso, starring Mario Lanza. **3.00** Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World. (R) **3.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.30** Rowing World Cup. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway: The Final Countdown. Part two of two. Engineers must construct and fit out a new station at Paddington, while a father and son team in Derby race to construct 66 trains for the Crossrail project. (R)

7.00 Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas to a panel of self-made millionaires. Presented by Evan Davis. (R)

8.00 The Life Swap Adventure. A Norwegian farmer who is tiring of his demanding life swaps places with a taxi driver from Devon who wants to run a farm, but fears the financial instability. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: Foxcatcher. (2014) Premiere. A reclusive, eccentric millionaire persuades an Olympic gold-medal-winning wrestler to join his personal team. Initially flattered by the attention lavished upon him by his wealthy new friend, the fighter flourishes – but tension soon grows between them when his brother is employed as a coach, a situation that leads to tragedy. Fact-based drama, starring Steve Carell, Channing Tatum and Mark Ruffalo.

11.05 White Gold. In a bid to get back everything he has lost, his marriage, his livelihood and self-worth, Vincent concocts a spectacular plot to return to his rightful place. Last in the series. (R)

11.35 Film: The Goob. (2014) Premiere. A teenager develops a tense relationship with his mother's new boyfriend and becomes attracted to a worker in a pumpkin field. Drama, with Liam Walpole.

1.00 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Wild Animal Reunions. (R) **10.15** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.15** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.15** ITV News. **12.25** Babushka. (R) **1.30** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.00** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **3.30 Film:** Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Celebrity Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Todd Carty, Jo Pavey, Saira Khan and Dominic Holland pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

7.30 The Voice Kids. Emma Willis presents the junior version of the singing talent contest, as the battle phase continues. Coaches Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott must decide which performers out of the remaining trios will be chosen to go through to the semi-final.

9.00 The Loch. Annie finds murder weapons used by the killer and tracks the culprit down, leading to a dangerous confrontation in the dark corridors of the local hydro-electric dam.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Lethal Weapon. Riggs makes a shocking discovery about Miranda's death, which leads him back to the cartel in a frantic search for answers. Clayne Crawford and Kevin Rahm star. (R)

11.20 Take Me Out. Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. (R)

12.25 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **3.10 A** Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.10** Homes by the Sea. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1 Austrian Grand Prix Highlights.

8.00 Secrets of China's Forbidden City. Documentary exploring the Beijing palace that housed Chinese emperors for 600 years. The programme reveals the current conservation work being carried out and uncovers new details about past rulers, including trade with Europe and how a marble staircase was transported along an ice road. A scale model is used to demonstrate how the structure was built to withstand earthquakes.

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale. Offred remembers her family's escape attempt, leading to a shocking revelation about her life before the Gilead regime that gives her a new perspective on her current situation.

10.00 Epidemic: When Britain Fought Aids. The impact of the disease on British society, featuring personal stories from activists, doctors, and those whose lives were affected, including Paul O'Grady and Jean Paul Gaultier.

10.55 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts, with Sean Lock and Stephen Mangan taking on guest captain Richard Ayoade and Katherine Ryan, and Bill Bailey in Dictionary Corner. (R)

11.55 Film: This Means War. (2012) Two secret agents fall in love with the same woman and use their talents to sabotage each other's chances of romance. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and Tom Hardy.

1.45 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A failing New York restaurant. (R) **2.35** The Last Leg. A comic review of the past seven days. (R) **3.30** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.55** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** Shipping Wars UK. Stu and Jemma transport a sailing boat from Cornwall to North Yorkshire. (R) **5.05** Location, Location, Location. Helping prospective buyers in Oxfordshire. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Mr Men. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Wissper. (R) **6.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.50** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **8.00** Noddy; Toyland Detective. (R) **8.20** Wissper. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. (R) **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35 Film:** The Flintstones. (1994) **3.15** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **4.15** Inside Windsor Castle. (R) **5.15** Inside Windsor Castle. (R)

6.10 Inside Windsor Castle. A look at 20 years in the life of the Queen and her family, covering the era from 1972, when she celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary, to 1992. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the First Test of the four-match series, which took place at Lord's.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 That's So 1990. Memories of the year Italy hosted the World Cup, prime minister Mrs Thatcher handed over the reins to John Major and fears of the spread of BSE – so-called mad cow disease – grew. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat.

10.05 OMG: Make Me a Famous Face. People undergoing cosmetic surgery to look like celebrities, including Katie Price, Kim Kardashian and Zayn Malik. Plus, a man who wants to look like a Ken doll.

11.05 Film: The Bounty Hunter. (2010) A bail enforcement agent is assigned to track down his own ex-wife, a reporter who is investigating a murder cover-up. Action comedy, starring Gerard Butler and Jennifer Aniston.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Royal Ballet: Woolf Works **9.00** Horizon: Space Volcanoes **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** Destination Titan **11.30** The Search for Life: The Drake Equation **12.30** Nature's Great Events **1.30** The Royal Ballet: Woolf Works **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.50 The Voice Kids **1.20** Ninja Warrior UK **2.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.55 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00 Film:** The Smurfs (2011) **5.00 Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05 Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **7.10 Film:** Gravity (2013) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20 Film:** Gravity (2013) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.15 The Darling Buds of May **12.30** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Doc Martin **8.00** The Booze Cruise 2: The Treasure Hunt **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **3.30** May the Best House Win **5.10** Rising Damp **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

4.30 Pawn Stars **5.00** Monster Carp **6.00** Fierce **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Road Racing Series **9.00 Film:** Jaws (1975) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Jaws (1975) **11.40 Film:** Renegades (1989) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** Renegades (1989) **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.40** Football Rivalries **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Binky & JP's Baby: Born in Chelsea **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** 101 Dalmatians (1996) **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** Rude Tube **1.05** Tattoo Fixers **2.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.55** Gogglebox **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** The Phantom (1996) **3.00** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **5.20** A Thousand Words (2012) **7.15** Europa Report (2013) **9.00** Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (2014) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Andy Serkis. **11.45** The Quiet Ones (2014) Horror, starring Jared Harris. **1.45** To the Wonder (2012) **4.00** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Truth and Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two former best friends and current enemies suspect each other of sending anonymous messages that threaten to expose their secrets. However, when they realise neither are behind it, the teenagers team up to investigate the source. Thriller, starring Dina Meyer, Emily Tennant and Keenan Tracey. (2015)

TUESDAY
Abducting Zoe, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A detective tries to help a sixteen-year-old in the search for her kidnapped baby. Crime drama, starring Sammi Hanratty and Andrea Bowen. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Rags to Riches: Ultimate Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Jason Stevens is busy running his grandfather's foundation, while also having to fend off lawsuits from his extended family and lament a fleeing lover. When an inherited journal magically sends him back to 1941, it provides an unparalleled opportunity for him to witness the true rags-to-riches story of his late grandfather. Drama, starring Logan Bartholomew and Peter Fonda. (2013)

Blades of Glory, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
Stranger in an Amish Town, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A penniless stranger and his son turn up on the doorstep of three Amish sisters, who offer him a place to stay and a job as a handyman. The women's police officer niece is suspicious of the new arrival and tries to find out where he has come from. Romantic mystery based on Serena B Miller's novel Love Finds You in Sugarcreek, Ohio, starring Sarah Lancaster, Tom Everett Scott and Kelly McGillis. (2014)

FRIDAY
Blades of Glory, BBC1, 11.05pm
A bad-boy figure skater and his effeminate arch-enemy are banned from the sport after their intense rivalry results in a brawl. However, the pair find a loophole in the regulations allowing them to enter the world championships as the first ever same-sex pair – if they can put aside their differences long enough to compete. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. (2007)

New drama series is hoping to be a novel success

You can't beat a good drama – and it seems that the rest of the world agrees.

They form the core of pretty much all TV schedules, and we never seem to get tired of them. And every now and then, a very special one comes along that makes us sit up and take notice.

In the Dark may be one of those.

It's a four-part series adapted by Danny Brocklehurst (whose previous projects include Ordinary Lies, Clocking Off and The Driver) from Mark Billingham's best-selling novels, his first books not to include the hugely popular Tom Thorne series.

Instead, the action focuses on the engaging but complex female detective Helen Weeks, who will tackle two cases.

"I am hugely thrilled that my stories are to be adapted for the screen and could not be more excited that it will be made by the BBC," says Billingham, who is currently preparing for his annual trip to the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate. "The journey from page to screen can often be tricky for authors, but with the amazing BBC Drama North team at the helm, it's one I cannot wait to embark on.

"I'm delighted to be making a show with BBC Drama North and thrilled we are setting the show in my home town of Manchester and making the city an integral part of the drama."

Brocklehurst is equally pleased to be involved in the project: "For me, crime drama is only interesting when it is told through character and in Helen Weeks, Mark has created a brilliant central character: a ballsy, funny, outspoken police woman who finds herself on the cusp of motherhood and has to grudgingly accept the vulnerability that brings to her.

"The key theme of the drama - how well do we really know those closest to us? - is a theme I find endlessly fascinating, and the fact that Helen's own life has secrets and duplicity makes the drama all the more interesting."

MyAnna Buring is the actress entrusted with bringing Helen Martin to life.

"What interested me was Danny Brocklehurst's writing and working with (head of BBC Drama North and executive producer) Hilary Martin," explains Buring. "I have such respect for their work and the way they conduct it. They have developed a great story and have now brought in a brilliant production and creative team, directors, and cast."

When we first meet Helen she is heavily pregnant, in fact, she's just two weeks away from giving birth.

She's nervous about her impending motherhood, and feels compelled to return to her rural home town of Polesford in Derbyshire with her partner, Paul, who is also a detective. She's soon embroiled in an abduction case and the chief suspect turns out to be the husband of Helen's childhood best friend Linda, who finds herself at the centre of a media storm.

But have the local police got the right man?

MyAnna Buring stars, In the Dark, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
How to Retire at 40
Channel 4, 8.30pm
As the slightly misleading title suggests, Anna Richardson chats to folks who have found clever or offbeat ways to retire early. They include Barney, a former accountant who retired at 43. So, not really 40 then. However, he will be sharing his tips for quitting the rate race early. Also featured are friends who found a new way to buy property for less; the man who's made a packet sending spuds through the post, and a family who insist on only spending money two days a week (though it's anyone's guess how much cash they spend on those days). Cameras also follow Pippa, who has made over £3million in two years; Sophie Morgan meets trend-spotters, and there are tips on how to get restaurant quality meals for a fraction of the price. Plus, Rhik Samadder meets more of the UK's leading supersavers.

TUESDAY
Tried and Tasted: The Ultimate Shopping List
Channel 4, 8pm
Chef Michel Roux Jr and a panel of food experts blind taste-test some of the nation's favourite food and drink. Joining the host is restaurant manager and First Dates' Fred Sirieix, journalist, broadcaster and critic Jay Rayner, baker and deli owner Stacie Stewart, and TV presenter and foodie mum Lucy Alexander. The panel this week choose between four different brands of steak and ale pie, houmous and sauvignon blanc – the UK's most popular wine.

WEDNESDAY
Love Your Garden
ITV, 8pm
At Chandlers Ford near Eastleigh in Hampshire, Alan Titchmarsh and the team attempt to transform a neglected suburban back garden into a woodland-style retreat. The Richardson family, who own the residence, are facing a very difficult future. Following some challenging years, dad Jason has been taken off the heart and kidney transplant list. The father of two survives by means of a heavy portable external machine which keeps his heart working and thrice-weekly kidney dialysis sessions. As a result, the family are tied to their home and are in need of an outdoor space which can become a retreat. Step forward Alan, David Domoney, Francis Tophill and Katie Rushworth, who battle terrible rain to make the Richardsons' dream a reality.

THURSDAY
Murdered for Being Different
BBC1, 10.45pm
In the early hours of August 11, 2007, 20-year-old Sophie Lancaster and her boyfriend of three years, Robert Maltby, were attacked by a gang of youths while walking through a park near their homes in Bacup, Lancashire. It was an unprovoked assault, initially on Robert who was knocked unconscious. While cradling his head, Sophie was kicked and died later in hospital. Those responsible had tormented the mild-mannered, sensitive couple due to their appearance – they were immersed in the goth culture. This moving and disturbing drama has been made in close collaboration with Sophie's family, Robert and the police, and examines exactly what happened. It also follows the story of a witness who felt compelled to come forward and stand up for what he believed was right.

BBC Proms 2017, Friday, BBC2, 9pm

FRIDAY
World Para Athletics Championships London 2017
Channel 4, 7.30pm
Ade Adepitan, Sophie Morgan and Lee McKenzie introduce coverage of the evening session on day one of the Championships, taking place at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The men's T12 100m is due to get under way this evening, with five heats in the first round due to get the action under way on the track, and later they will be followed by several heats in the men's T28 800m and the women's T47 200m. Several finals are also scheduled to take place, with gold medals awarded in the men's F46 javelin and T54 100m, as well as the women's T34 100m and T15 1500m.

BBC Proms 2017
BBC2, 9pm
The nation's spirit might have been beaten down by recent events, but one annual event you can always rely on to stir the blood and boost the morale is the Proms, and the 2017 edition promises to be more special than ever.

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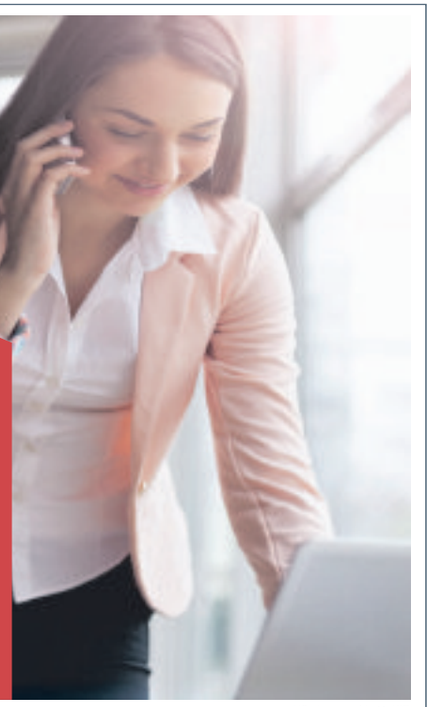
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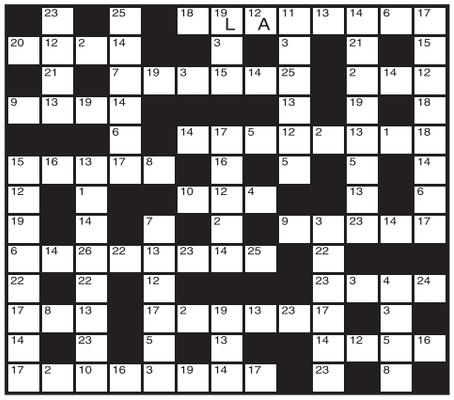
BRAIN GYM

No.437

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



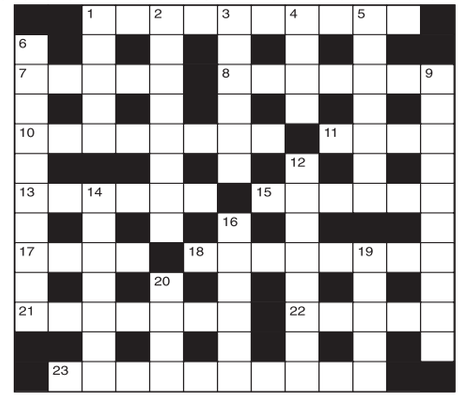
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 L
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 A	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	L	H	Y	J	Q	I	E	T	P	B	N	X
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	W	Z	O	A	C	U	G	F	K	S	V	R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A teacher has to look after a genius (6,4)
7. Distance to measure right inside (5)
8. Puts on something saucy? (7)
10. Good stroke for a cricketer, but not a golfer (3-5)
11. A girl to avoid (4)
13. Properly dressed soldiers are (2,4)
15. He provides a new setting for the doctor (6)
17. Terrible ruler of vain disposition (4)
18. Vendors, possibly nameless (8)
21. Being agreeable, but saying nothing (7)
22. Excel, but not in a party (5)
23. It necessitates a lot of extra work in the theatre (5,5)

Down

1. It's an idea if Tom comes up first (5)
2. Guiding line about two similar points (8)
3. A plant useful in salads may be envied (6)
4. Suitable start for the hunting season (4)
5. Possibly retains, though being less agreeable (7)
6. I'm taking the attitude that it's rather a burden (10)
9. Light that goes up and down (4,6)
12. Bet a long striding gait is natural to it (8)
14. Hero worshipper (7)
16. Rushes into boats (6)
19. Capital wear for a bishop (5)
20. Surveyor's opinion (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Abeyance (10)
7. Fragrance (5)
8. Commerce (7)
10. Conversant (8)
11. Daybreak (4)
13. Sadness (6)
15. Centre (6)
17. Besides (4)
18. Collect (6,2)
21. Bit (7)
22. Got up (5)
23. Go first (4,3,3)

Down

1. Rage (5)
2. Horse (8)
3. Ensnare (6)
4. Smack (4)
5. Casual (7)
6. Dozing (4-6)
9. About (10)
12. Retire (8)
14. Lay by (7)
16. Initiate (6)
19. Hazardous (5)
20. Benevolent (4)

Sudoku

	9	7			5			4
8				3	7	6		
		5	8	4				
		6				4		2
	1			6			7	
2			5			8		
		1		7	2	9		
	5		9	1				6
7					6	1	3	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	5	7	3	6	9	8	2	4
2	3	8	7	5	4	1	6	9
6	4	9	2	1	8	5	7	3
3	2	5	1	9	6	4	8	7
4	7	1	5	8	2	9	3	6
9	8	6	4	7	3	2	1	5
5	6	2	8	4	7	3	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	5	6	4	8
8	9	4	6	3	1	7	5	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Redcoat; 7 Clout; 9 Ark; 10 Intricate; 12 Making money; 15 Amateur team; 17 Eagle-eyed; 19 End; 21 Class; 22 Give out. Down: 1 Wears; 2 Ice; 3 Pain; 4 Electoral; 5 Aunties; 8 Aright; 11 Faithless; 13 Inures; 14 Amiable; 16 Undue; 18 Erie; 20 Pea.
QUICK - Across: 6 Precede; 7 Humid; 9 Gap; 10 Recumbent; 12 Dissimulate; 15 Penetrating; 17 Contender; 19 Old; 21 Decoy; 22 Against. Down: 1 Break; 2 Act; 3 Idle; 4 Turbulent; 5 Dignity; 8 Summit; 11 Direction; 13 Strong; 14 Recover; 16 Clasp; 18 Edge; 20 Hit.

Quiz

1. Of what is Soweto a contraction?
2. Where did Norwegian Liv Arnesen become the first woman to reach alone?
3. Which scavenger may be brown, striped or spotted?
4. What nationality was General Blücher, Wellington's ally at Waterloo?
5. Which Monty Python star wrote the novel Hemingway's Chair?
6. With which art form is 'Grandma' Moses associated?
7. Of which city is Spandau a suburb?
8. With which art form is the American Virgil Thomson associated?
9. What would someone with dysphagia have difficulty doing?
10. In which country is the Ruahine mountain range?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Henry Fielding; 2 The brain; 3 Fanny Cradock; 4 Denmark; 5 Footpad; 6 Australia; 7 Nebula; 8 James I; 9 John Osborne; 10 Inverness.

Niner: ORGANISED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6284237 gives a bird,
454 gives a second bird,
189 gives a winged creature.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

CHRONICLE

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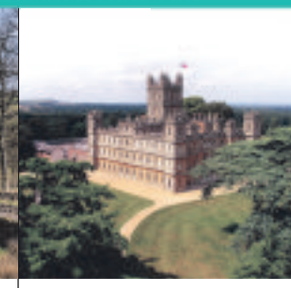

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Sup it up – it's pure genius Bar none

IF the West Midlands were to hand out a lifetime achievement award, a Godlike Genius Award or a most-influential restaurateur gong, there would be only one winner: Andreas Antona.

For all of the Michelin stars that Birmingham and Ludlow have garnered over the past 20 years, for all of the improved standing that the region has enjoyed, Andreas has maintained his position at the forefront. He's had a star for longer than anyone else, he's employed and influenced more cooks and his imprint on the region's dining scene has become indelible.

Andreas was a mentor to some of the region's biggest and best chefs – the likes of fellow Michelin-star holders Luke Tipping of Simpsons and Glynn Purnell of Purnell's, not forgetting the multi-award-winning Andy Waters, of Waters Restaurant.

MEMORABLE

He's created a number of truly memorable restaurants during his many years in the region, most notably Simpsons, which he created in Kenilworth in 1993 then relocated to Edgbaston, and The Cross, at Kenilworth. More recently, he has collaborated with Paul Halsey, from Purity Brewing Co, to create Purecraft Bar and Kitchen, which has branches in Birmingham and Nottingham. And, as you'd expect, the food is absolutely stunning.

And yet Pure Bar is about much more than just great nosh. It celebrates the remarkable rise of craft beers, which have become ubiquitous in fashionable towns and cities across the UK.

Pure Bar is at the vanguard of that new wave of craft ales. Its mission is to create new beer fans. And it believes that matching great food and beer in an interesting atmosphere is the key to pleasurable

Raspberry beer arctic roll and white chocolate

Modern look – inside has an industrial vibe

evenings. The Birmingham branch opened in March 2014 and has exceeded expectation. It won the Great British Pub Awards National Award for Best Beer Pub in 2015 – the industry's Oscar equivalent – and remains at the cutting edge of great beer and food.

Andreas and Halsey are partnered by logistics and service man, Martin Hilton, a former director with Mitchells & Butler, to make their operation tick. Hashtag #DreamTeam. Pure Bar is about more than just great food and drink, however. It's a great environment in which to socialise and relax. Located at the far end of Colmore Row, it's a short distance from the Town Hall, Symphony Hall and financial district. That means there's a constant buzz, day and night. On weekdays, it's full of city types and evenings with couples, friends and others and at weekends there's a different crowd, filling the venue with good vibes.

I visited for a midweek lunch and enjoyed a dining experience where food and service were both of the highest standard. The menu is a triumph. Though Antona made his name by inspiring a generation of Michelin-star chefs to cook the best fine dining in the West Midlands, Pure Bar is all about the simple things in life. So delicious fish and chips is served along with steak and fries, sausage rolls, Black Country pork pies and free range pickled eggs. Nothing could be cooler. Except, of course, under Antona's brilliant gaze, the humble beef patty is elevated into a new realm. There are sharing boards of great cheese and charcuterie and the suppliers are the best in the region.

With flavoursome dishes, brilliant craft ales and polished service, it's pure enjoyment.

ANDY RICHARDSON

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Tastefully decorated family home has five/six bedrooms

Being fully refurbished to a particularly high standard, 30 Gate Street in Sedgley, Dudley, comes with five/six bedrooms and three bathrooms.

A property that really needs to be viewed in order to be fully appreciated, it is for sale through Skitts at £313,600. This outstanding home is situated within a short distance to Sedgley Town centre and amenities including shops, schools and public transport.

With majority central heating and double glazing, the home is tastefully decorated throughout. Its accommodation briefly comprises of lobby to an entrance hall with a cloakroom/WC off, a 23ft living room, a stylish fitted kitchen plus a utility and a downstairs bedroom/reception room with shower room off.

On the first floor there are five further bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is off-road parking to the front for numerous vehicles and a pleasant garden to the rear. In more detail, it is approached by a paved driveway.

A lobby with the guest WC off leads to the entrance hall. This has ceramic floor tiling and stairs off. The living room overlooks both the front and rear of the property. A door from the utility room room opens to bedroom six. This has an en-suite shower room.

The kitchen includes a built-in oven with a five-ring gas hob and a cooker hood, a range of fitted wall cupboards, ceramic floor tiles, two double glazed windows to the rear and ceiling spotlights. The utility room has a fitted work top with cupboards, plumbing for a washing machine, ceramic floor tiling and a door to the rear garden.

Upstairs the landing has loft access and five bedrooms off, as well as two family bathrooms which both have white suites. They include baths with shower fittings.

The rear garden has a briquette patio area, a lawn area and side access.

SEDGLEY £313,600

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Skitts
TEL: 01902 686868
EMAIL: sedgley@skitts.net

KEY FEATURES

Substantial detached
Fully refurbished
5/6 bedrooms
3 bathrooms
Tastefully decorated

He's sold

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New

WALL HEATH, Holbeache Road

Gently elevated and set well back beyond the LONG DRIVEWAY approach and with a LARGE BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT REAR GARDEN, this TRADITIONAL DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers much potential for improvement/ extensions including THREE BEDROOMS. EPC E

No upward chain — £350,000

New

GORNAL WOOD , Himley Road

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - Spacious gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed FOUR BEDROOM detached family residence nearing completion ENVIABLY SITUATED in favoured neighbourhood offering a 'first-quality' design and superb specification this distinctive home will comprise entrance porch, hall, cloakroom, study, living room, dining kitchen (with French doors out to garden). Gallery landing, four generous bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room ensuite), bathroom, garden, 3 car parking. Further details plans/specifications etc with SEDGLEY OFFICE. EPC: TBA

Offers in the region of £295,000

SEDGLEY, Sandyfields Road

The spacious SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED and faultlessly presented centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM detached enviably situated in favoured district within walking distance of so many amenities and with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS to the rear. Accommodation includes entrance vestibule, reception hall, walk in store, extended L shape through living/dining room, extended breakfast kitchen, utility room, reappointed cloakroom. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (two with fitted units), extended luxurious recently reappointed bathroom. Garage, delightful gardens. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £279,950

UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT - Nearing completion; SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated (underfloor & radiator), double glazed DETACHED house comprising THREE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), bathroom, and to the Lower Ground Floor a cloakroom together with magnificent 25'9" through kitchen/ living/dining room THREE CAR PARKING TO REAR. SAP TBC SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £225,000...NOW £220,000

WALL HEATH, The Parade

A TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME superbly placed, convenient for sought after schools and Village shops/amenities, offering a GENEROUS layout of accommodation which includes THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a good size garden EPC D

No upward chain — £215,000

WOODSETTON, Wansbeck Walk

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An attractive significantly enhanced and upgraded freehold gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed detached bungalow in short cul-de-sac. Reception hall, reappointed shower room, cupboard, 17'8" living/dining room, upgrade kitchen with numerous integrated appliances, two bedrooms, transverse CONSERVATORY. Block paved driveway to substantial garage and a sheltered rear garden. EPC: D Sedgley

Offers in the region of £215,000

COSELEY, Mount Pleasant Street

Fantastically proportioned pre-war link-detached property which benefits from gas central heating & double glazing. This family home also boasts large entrance hall, well-appointed living room , spacious dining room, kitchen-diner, two cellar rooms, FOUR BEDROOMS, large bathroom, good-sized garden, guest W/C and integral garage. VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL! EPC:E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £210,000

New

KINGSWINFORD, Kingsley Road

A LARGE SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME which requires improvement within a much sought after address, enjoying a corner position with BROAD DRIVEWAY, DETACHED GARAGE and enclosed rear garden. Offering a SPACIOUS layout with much potential, including THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC E

No upward chain — £199,950

New

WOLVERHAMPTON , Grosvenor Road, Ettingshall Park

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated on the extremely popular Ettingshall Park development , this good sized semi-detached has much to offer. As well as benefiting from being EXTENDED & THREE BEDROOMS, this Mucklow style home also boasts; porch, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, family bathroom, garage, rear garden and drive to front. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,950

New

LOWER GORNAL , Wood Road

A fantastically presented and FULLY MODERNISED semi-detached property situated in the much sought after location of Lower Gornal. Benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating this family home also boasts; good-sized living room, stunning re-fitted kitchen, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS with MASTER BEDROOM located on 2nd floor and includes en-suite shower room, attractive bathroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offes in the region of £159,950

New

DUDLEY WOOD, Saltwells Road

This BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED & ATTRACTIVELY DECORATED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Attractive Through Lounge, WELL FITTED KITCHEN , Three Large Bedrooms, DELIGHTFUL FOUR PIECE SUITE BATHROOM & DIVINE REAR GARDEN. EPC E

£154,995

DUDLEY, Buffery Road

This SUBSTANTIAL & EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Kitchen, Three First Floor Bedroom, Re-APPOINTED SHOWER ROOM, Driveway, DOUBLE GARAGE & Pleasant Garden. EPC: C

£149,950

COSELEY, Upper Ettingshall Road

FANTASTIC - Exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow that has been transformed in recent years by present vendors to a stunning specification comprising; hall, refitted kitchen leading into a transverse lounge/orangery addition, Three bedrooms, shower room. Lengthy garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950

PENSNETT, Primrose Park

Set within a secure gated retirement complex, including beautifully laid out and maintained gardens/grounds, on site manager and COMMUNAL RESIDENT CAR PARKING, this LARGER STYLE and DECEPTIVE TWO BEDROOM MEWS BUNGALOW is AVAILABLE WITH NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D

No upward chain — £99,950

New

SEDGLEY, The Croft

Offering huge potential and located in the popular area of Sedgley this SEMI-DETACHED comprises of; hallway, living room, open-plan kitchen-diner, utility, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden with garden to front. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £95,000

New

QUARRY BANK, Hill Street

This CHARMING & MOST APPEALING, TWO BEDROOM, PERIOD STYLE, TERRACE HOME comprises: Lovely Sitting Room, Dining Room, Pleasant Well Fitted Kitchen, Two first Floor Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom, Pretty Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC D

£94,950

DUDLEY WOOD, Saltwells Road

This RATHER DECEPTIVE AND MOST APPEALING, TWO BEDROOM, PERIOD STYLE HOME affords a layout with gas central heating and double glazing to comprise: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Rear Hall, Bathroom and Two First Floor Bedrooms. Fore Garden & Rear Garden. EPC: D

Now available — £94,950

New

COSELEY, Hurst Hill , Johnson Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. An attractively presented traditional terrace house ideally suited to first time buyers or those looking to downsize; which benefits from living room, kitchen-diner, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, rear garden, central heating and double glazing. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £84,950

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DUDLEY, Richborough Drive

"PENTHOUSE STYLE" SECOND FLOOR PRINCIPAL BEDROOM SUITE! Enhanced/enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with DISTANT VIEWS comprising; hall, cloaks, 22"10" lounge/dining room with CONSERVATORY beyond, kitchen, utility room. Three bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), bathroom. Second floor 22 ft by 17 ft principal bedroom suite with centre piece 'jacuzzi'. Garage, garden .EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,995

New

SEDGLEY, Southerndown Road, Brownswall

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated on the much sought after 'BROWNSWALL' estate, this pleasantly presented and well maintained EXTENDED DETACHED BUNGALOW benefits from entrance hall, living room, dining area, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, bathroom, garage, parking, ATTRACTIVE REAR GARDEN, open views to rear. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £249,950

New

TIPTON, Lower Comball

A superbly presented modern DETACHED in a much sought after Redrow development in Tipton. Having the benefit of upvc double glazing, gas central heating this fabulous family home also boasts; reception hall, lounge, attractive kitchen-dining room, utility room, guest cloakroom, FOUR BEDROOMS with en-suite shower room to master bedroom, family bathroom, driveway, garage and and enclosed rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC:C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £ 235,000

New

KINGSWINFORD, Queen Street

Enjoying a VERY LARGE and BEAUTIFULLY ESTABLISHED REAR GARDEN within a sought after position, this INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE SEMI DETACHED HOUSE is within walking distance from schools and Village shops, offering a SUPERBLY SPACIOUS layout of THREE BEDROOM accommodation EPC D

£184,950

SEDGLEY, Langland Drive, Northway

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL! - Spacious freehold gas centrally heated & majority double glazed semi detached in favoured district comprising; porch, hall, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, store, kitchen, lobby, further store. Three generous bedrooms reappointed bathroom , garage, sheltered rear garden.●BEST & FINAL OFFERS TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE VENDORS CONSIDERATION BY 12.00 NOON ON MONDAY 10TH JULY 2017● EPC:E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £175,000

LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Tremendously modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been comprehensively modernised in recent years at head of cul-de-sac with porch, hall, and "open plan" accommodation incorporating lounge section (with bay), dining room section (with French doors out to garden), and a refitted kitchen section. Three bedrooms, bathroom. parking, "sun trap" side/rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £175,000

WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road

Meticulously maintained, FREEHOLD, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached presented in exemplary order throughout. comprising; hallway, store, 15'5" lounge, refitted dining kitchen with a fine range of 'Avanti' units with many fitted appliances,CONSERVATORY beyond. Three bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Delightful 'low maintenance' rear garden with brick GARAGE and driveway beyond. EPC:D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £167,950

LANESFIELD, Rookery Road

A significantly modernised ENLARGED gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with reception hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, 13'2" kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, lengthy 24'9" garage with block paved driveway and a secluded/level rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £139,000

LOWER GORNAL , Lake Street

UNLIMITED POTENTIAL! - A highly individual 'quirky' UPVC double glazed gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) link-detached upon wide plot (with garage) and lengthy rear gardent. Accommodation includes entrance vestibule, living room, lobby, fitted cloakroom, pantry, breakfast kitchen. Two large bedrooms (possibilities of sub division?), bathroom. Delightful lengthy rear garden and 16ft width from side gable to boundary wall with gated access. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in region of £140,000

New

SEDGLEY, Monument Lane

Located in the popular Sedgley area of Dudley and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN, this semi-detached property boasts entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, sitting room/ study, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, drive to front and enclosed rear garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950

PENSNETT, Tansey Green Road

Within this exclusive cul de sac section of this sought after address, this MODERN TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE HOUSE offers a well presented layout including a CONSERVATORY, plus an ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE and a landscaped low maintenance garden. EPC C

£127,950

PENSNETT, Corbyns Hall Road

This SPACIOUS & TRADITIONAL, BAY FRONTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Reception Hall, Through Lounge, Well Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom, Driveway facilitating off road parking and Lovely Rear Garden. EPC E

£124,950

UPPER GORNAL , Inhedge Street

A recently modernised traditional terraced property situated on a cul-de-sac in Dudley. Benefiting from two reception rooms, re-fitted kitchen, attractive bathroom, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, rear garden and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £104,950

New

COSELEY, Evergreen Close

A superbly presented MEWS HOUSE situated in a popular cul-de-sac location in Coseley. This ideal starter home boasts; attractive open-plan living room-kitchen, bathroom, BEDROOM, central heating, double glazing and parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in excess of £84,950

COSELEY, Lime Street, Hurst Hill

Offering HUGE POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVEMENT this semi-detached property benefits from porch, entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom with separate W/C, enclosed rear garden with garden to fore and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Best and Final offers to be received for the vendors consideration by 12 noon on Friday 14th July 2017. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY.

Offers in excess of £79,950

DUDLEY, Laurel Road

TREMENDOUSLY IMPROVED OVER PAST 12 MONTHS - Conscientiously maintained gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and majority double glazed two double bedroom semi-detached comprising hallway, lounge, upgraded breakfast kitchen, lobby, store, separate WC and a large 'wrap around' UPVC double glazed/brick conservatory to side and rear. Two double bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with white suite, off road parking, neat garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

New price WAS £90,000...NOW £79,950

WOODSETTON, Roper Walk

An APPRECIABLY SPACIOUS and much enhanced centrally heated UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR double bedroom flat with OPEN ASPECT to front set in quiet backwater shared gardens and allocated parking. Accommodation includes entrance hallway, upgraded kitchen, 16'4" living/dining room, inner hallway, double bedroom, upgraded bathroom with white suite. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

New price WAS £75,000...NOW £69,950

New

BRIERLEY HILL, Fenton Street

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£60,000

Four-bedroom extended house in lovely setting

WOLLASTON
£299,950

An extended four-bedroomed detached family home with well-proportioned bedrooms in Tyrol Close, Wollaston, Stourbridge, is for sale through Taylors at £299,950.

With two reception rooms, it lies in a great location for Wollaston village and schools. It is in a quiet residential close off High Park Avenue. It is in a lovely setting.

With gas central heating and double glazing, this four-bedroom, extended, detached family home has accommodation briefly comprising an entrance porch, entrance hall, a sitting room, a separate extended dining room, a kitchen, four bedrooms and a modern white bathroom.

Contact Taylors on 01384 395555 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Three-bedroom terraced home is in a popular residential area

LOWER GORNAL
£177,950 <<<

Situated in a pleasant and popular residential area, this three-bedroomed terraced house in Haslingden Crescent, Lower Gornal, Dudley, lies between Gornal Wood and Sedgley.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £177,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, living room, inner hallway, dining kitchen, first floor landing, bedroom one en-suite, two further bedrooms, gardens and two parking spaces.

The property has a wide range of amenities being available within the area.

It also has the benefit of a residue for 10-year NHBC warranty and has well-proportioned accommodation with low maintenance gardens.

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Two-bedroomed terraced is perfect as a first property

DUDLEY
£114,950 <<<

This well maintained two-bedroomed terraced home in Dudley Road, Sedgley, Dudley, lies in a convenient location close to the centre with its wide range of amenities.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £114,950 with no chain.

It has two reception rooms, a lobby, store, kitchen, rear lobby, a separate WC, lobby, landing, two bedrooms, a bathroom, gardens and an outside store.

The house is ideal for a first-time purchaser. It is well maintained with double glazing and gas central heating. The property has deceptive accommodation and an internal inspection is recommended. The kitchen has a Beko electric oven and hob with an extractor hood over, integrated fridge and freezer

Call 01384 459999.

Detached bungalow in a quiet cul-de-sac

DUDLEY
£217,500

In a quiet cul-de-sac location, this two-bedroomed detached bungalow in Cedarwood Road, Dudley, is for sale through Swinscoes at £217,500 with no chain.

Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, off its inner hall is a kitchen/diner, a lounge leading into the conservatory, two bedrooms and a shower room.

The larger-than-average driveway provides ample off-road parking which has a carport and single garage. The tiered rear garden is private and has a wide selection of shrubbery.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal home for you, call Swinscoes on 01902 672274.

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23 NASH LANE, BELBROUGHTON £210,000
•Modern two bedroom home
•Situated close to the centre of Belbroughton
• Gas central heating and double glazed
•Ideal for first time buyers or someone looking to 'downsize'
•EPC rating D

'FAIRHAVEN' SUMMIT PLACE O/A £184,950
GORNAL WOOD
•Well presented two bedroom detached bungalow
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•Dining area with fitted bench seating
•Attached garage
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81 NEW STREET O/A £174,950
GORNAL WOOD
•Traditional style detached house
•Extended three bedroom accommodation
•Potential for further enhancement
•Occupying a wide road frontage with ample off road parking
•EPC RATING E

102 PENZER STREET £155,000
KINGSWINFORD
•Much improved & well presented semi detached house
•Two large double bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom
•Re-fitted kitchen, living room & conservatory
•Wide frontage with ample off road parking & garage
•EPC RATING D

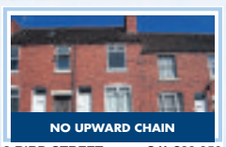
26 OLD PARK ROAD, DUDLEY £149,950
•Traditional style semi detached house
•Improved & extended three bedroom accommodation
•Ample off road parking & good sized easily maintainable rear garden
•Through living room with two separate living areas, extended kitchen
•EPC RATING D

7 REDWOOD AVENUE £129,995
DUDLEY
•Semi detached house
•Well proportioned accommodation
•Three bedrooms
• 'L' shaped rear garden
•EPC RATING E

13 BIRD STREET, LOWER GORNAL £124,950
•Extended three bedroom terrace
•Attractively presented
•Ideal for a first time buyer
•Internal inspection is highly recommended
•EPC rating E

15 BIRD STREET, LOWER GORNAL £124,950
•Extended two bedroom end of terrace
•Occupying a convenient corner location
•Attractively presented
•An internal inspection is highly recommended
•EPC rating F

85 HORACE STREET
COSELEY
£119,950
•Modern end of terrace house
•Two bedrooms
•Wellproportionedaccommodation
•Ample off road parking
•EPC RATING C



8 BIRD STREET O/A £89,950
LOWER GORNAL
•Well proportioned two bedroom mid terraced house
•Ideal for first time buyers or property investors
•Modernised & improved but now in need of some further upgrading
•Fenced level rear garden, low maintenance with slabs and gravel •EPC RATING D

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A strong contender among city cars

By Jack Evans

SKODA CITIGO SE L, PRICE AS TESTED £10,700

The Skoda Citigo is about as no-frills a car as you can get today. It's designed for urban drivers who need a practical but compact way of getting around, as well as for those who don't want to pay the earth in running costs. The original car did this to a tee and now it's been updated for 2017.

What does that mean? Well, the exterior – which was never bad looking in the first place – has been treated to a reshaped front grille and modified bumper as well as daytime running lights. There's also a jazzy new colour – Kiwi Green – which stands out against the plethora of grey and black hues currently on the road today.

Inside, you now get a redesigned instrument cluster while a new infotainment system gives clearer control over the DAB digital radio and media options. There's even a multifunction steering wheel available – though this is an optional extra.

The previous-generation Citigo was a good-looking little car and thankfully Skoda has only improved the package. The previously mentioned daytime running lights give it a little more presence on the road, while redesigned 15-inch alloy wheels fill the Citigo's arches nicely. The all-new Kiwi Green colour looks great on the car too – though it's sure to divide opinion.

The Citigo's interior has a quality to it that you'd expect from cars double its price. Everything feels exceptionally well put together, and though there are some harder plastics to be found, you need to remember that they're in a car which can be bought for a shade under £9,000.

It's impressive, just as it was in the original, while the variety of Skoda 'Simply Clever' features – an umbrella under the front passenger seat and a fold-out bag hook on the handle of the glove compartment, for instance – only add to the interior's quality.

The Skoda Citigo, in Kiwi Green

Given that the Citigo measures just 3,597mm (a Ford Fiesta is 3,969mm, for context) then you wouldn't expect to find much in the way of practicality. The reality couldn't be further from the truth. In five-door layout, like our test car, there's 251 litres of seats-up boot space, rising to 959 litres with them folded down. It has a split floor too, giving a far more flexible storage solution.

Front seat passengers get plenty of leg and headroom, while those in the back are – surprisingly – equally well catered for. Of course, taller passengers may struggle in terms of headroom, but occupants of average height will be more than comfortable sat in the rear of the Citigo.

In the modern motoring age of driving assists and autonomous steering, the Citigo offers a driving experience that is nothing short of refreshing. There haven't been any mechanical changes made to this car over the previous model, which means that it drives just as well as it did.

The new model doesn't lose any of the great features previous models had

The steering is light but communicative, while the five-speed manual gearbox has a decent action. The engine needs to be worked hard at times – especially when tackling steep gradients – but for most of the time it's settled and refined – something you wouldn't expect from a three-cylinder petrol engine.

It's a basic driving experience, that's for sure, but that doesn't stop it from being an enjoyable one. And if you're after a car that is happier doing longer miles, then the more powerful engine is the one to go for.

If you want a Citigo with all the bells and whistles – think dark privacy glass and heated seats – then that's exactly what you can get in the £11,325 Monte Carlo-edition car. In truth though, we'd recommend going for a more base-spec Citigo, as it lies closer to the car's no-frills mentality than the more equipment-laden models.

The SE model is the pick of the bunch in our eyes, offering air conditioning, rear folding seats and an infotainment system with Bluetooth connectivity and six speakers for £9,635 for the 59bhp, three-door model. It also remains a very good car for first-time drivers thanks to its Group 2 insurance rating.

The Citigo is ideal for drivers who want a car that isn't festooned with technology, and one which doesn't cost all that much to run. As mentioned earlier, it's also a great choice for just-passed motorists who are looking to keep insurance premiums to a minimum.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Crossland X Elite 1.4i (75PS) ecoFLEX: Urban: 41.5 (6.8), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.3), Combined: 54.3 (5.2). CO_2 emissions: 120g/km.#

#Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, July 6, 2017

Honda 'driving machine' packs a punch

By Ian Donaldson

HONDA CIVIC TYPE R GT, £32,995

DON'T tell BMW, but someone has pinched its famous boast; buy one and you'll have the 'ultimate driving machine'.

The cheeky interloper is Honda, more specifically the company's latest, hottest, brashest, loudest version of the Civic Type R.

And there on a presentation screen at the press drive event in BMW's homeland were the three words that the 169mph Civic wants to take as its own.

But, you ask, is 320 horsepower and a deeply serious approach to building this winged, spoilered and extravagantly vented Type R enough to deserve any of that trio of well used words?

Quite probably; there is no denying its performance potential and Honda has the video to prove it.

Around the notoriously unforgiving Nürburgring race track, long considered too dangerous for grand prix cars but now a stretch of tortuous tarmac for everyone to hire at 25 euros a lap.

The latest Type R polished off the 14.1 miles in 7mins 43.8secs to claim a record for any front-wheel drive production car. If you're the sort of youngish thruster who might sell his mother for a down payment on a new one, this time matters. A lot.

Other rivals – the likes of the Ford Focus RS and Volkswagen's Golf R – are also no slouches round the Ring but the Type R is unarguably in the mix now. It is also, by a useful margin, less expensive than either of them.

You can have the hottest Honda hatch for £30,995 but nearly everyone will find another £2,000 for the GT model, which comes with goodies including satellite navigation, dual zone climate control, wireless charging pad, 11 speaker sound system and a clutch of added safety features like blind spot warning and cross traffic monitor which keeps watch as you reverse from a parking space.

None of these features are fundamental to the nature of the beast that is the new Type R. And at its beating heart is a modestly reworked version of the 2.0 litre engine from the old car, forcing 320 metric horses (up 10 horsepower) through its front wheels, now wrapped in larger alloys and carrying wider, super sticky tyres.

Thank a turbocharger for giving the Type R the sort of mid-range back shove you might be pleased with in a junior Lamborghini and enough to max out at 169mph, not approached on an unrestricted but busy stretch of autobahn, with this driver finding the brake pedal as the speedo eagerly chased its way to double the UK motorway limit.

The hot RS from Ford manages 165mph and is usefully faster to 62mph than the Honda (4.7 seconds plays 5.7 seconds) but it feels less ferocious, which may not be a virtue in this type of machine.

The £33,500 Golf R is also quicker to the magic 62mph than the newcomer, posting a 4.7 seconds time but its top speed is electronically limited to a 'mere' 155mph. It also feels more mature and less exciting to drive, and might well appeal to a rather different sort of enthusiast.

Buying the Honda will save you a PCP payment (£299 monthly on a three-year contract) thanks to lower exhaust emissions, with a £500 first year tax hit versus £800 for the Ford and VW (actual CO2 readings are 170/175/180g/km).

You won't buy any of these hottest hatches to worry about fuel economy, but for the record the Honda is officially best at 38.7mpg with the Golf next at 37.7mpg and the Ford trailing with 36.7mpg. None will approach that on the road, of course, let alone if let loose on a circuit track day.

But back to the bits that might make you badly want a four-door Civic Type R parked outside the house, raring to head for a track or deserted mountain pass high in the Alps.

We've looked at the engine, but the engineers have been equally thorough in every other go-faster aspect of this Swindon-built superhatch.

So, the brakes are big and made by Brembo, the go-to name for superior stopping power. A little larger than before, they took several laps of the many cornered EuroSpeedway without complaint, as did the specially developed Continental tyres with rubber as clingy as a needy child in a strop.

There are now three driving modes, from comfort (which did a decent job of taming the ride on Germany's surreally smooth roads) through sport, which tightens throttle, steering and damping to +R for the race track, where things sharpen to a scimitar-like level.

All those body add-ons – enough to raise a smile and thumb's up from a German van driver alongside in a traffic jam (yes, in Germany!) also make the Type R the only one of its breed to actually force the car down on the road at speed.

Put away £33,000 for the Honda, which will really zoom up to 62mph

Away from the track the Type R ought to prove a mostly undemanding companion when you simply want to get somewhere briskly, although the eyeball attracting triple exhaust pipe, especially developed to dampen droning in the cockpit is only a partial success.

Ditto the revised rear suspension, which sets out to stop a mild uneasiness from the rear under heavy braking but still lets you know the back wheels are working hard as you slow hard.

Minor details, these, in a car that shows Honda – once likened to a Japanese BMW thanks to its engineering focus – is fighting hard to wrench the German marque's slogan from them.

Ultimate driving machine? Not far off.

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3 Home & Services

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4 Pets & Animals

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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business directory

accountants

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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NOTICE TO READERS
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Glad it's over as £1m Wolves misfit departs

MISFIT Paul Gladon says he's pleased to have returned to former club Heracles after his difficult year at Wolves. The £1m signing made just three scoreless appearances in gold and black and last played for the first team in September.

Ex-boss Paul Lambert said Gladon wasn't 'up to speed' for the Championship and the Dutchman didn't feature in a first-team squad under the Scot. The former Sparta Rotterdam striker, aged 25, rejoined Eredivisie side Heracles on a season-long loan deal. He scored six goals in 27 appearances during his previous season with the club in 2015/16.

Gladon, who had signed a three-year contract with Wolves last summer, struggled to adapt in England country on his own – but said joining Wolves was still an opportunity he couldn't turn down.

"I had some minutes at the beginning of the season, then I had to only train," Gladon told Heracles' official website. If you do not play games and only allowed to train, it is not good to very often be 'home alone'.

Grassroots heroes are commended at awards

STAFFORDSHIRE FA's grassroots heroes were honoured at the Community Awards at Stoke's Bet365 stadium. A total of 15 awards were given to honour the achievements of clubs, representatives and leagues over the past 12 months.

Wyrley Juniors won the FA Charter Standard Community Club Award, while the Walsall Junior Youth League won the FA Charter Standard League Award, with the Staffordshire County Senior League applauded.

The Coach of the Year gong went to Bilbrook Juniors' Mark Smith Park, with Paige Snape of Chasetown FC awarded the Young Volunteer of the Year prize. The Staffordshire Ladies Over 30s League was also winners, as the Best Inclusive Project.

Bilston Town CFC's Denise Frankham was highly commended for the People's Choice Award for Outstanding Contribution to Community Football, and Chris Burton, from Hawkins Sports FC, was recognised for the FA Groundsman of the Year at Step 7 or Below.

Girls vie to get hands on tournament trophy

THE Midlands is leading the way in handball participation for girls, with more than 700 13-to-15-year-olds taking up the sport in the last year.

And next Tuesday, 100 girls from across the Midlands will compete in the first Cameron Homes Girls Handball Tournament at Aldersley Stadium, Wolverhampton. It will see teams from South Derbyshire, Shropshire, Sutton Coldfield and Cannock Chase compete in two age groups – under-13 and under-15 – attempting to win the first of the annual events.

Handball coach and tournament organiser Nenad Popovic said: "We're building a strong foundation in the Midlands by encouraging young girls to become more active and get involved with handball. The Cameron Homes tournament is fantastic opportunity for girls to get a taste for competitive handball and see why so many people have fallen in love with the sport."

Girls Handball has seen a huge increase in participation over the past 12 months, with teams in Sutton Coldfield, Telford and Burntwood all forming junior teams. Cannock are the current under-18 national champions.

Aaron Rai in action earlier this year

Playing at 3 Hammers, aged four, watched by Gary Gilligan

From putting in the back garden to a Major player

WISCONSIN is a long way from Wolverhampton – but it is a journey made possible by dedication, determination and no little talent.

So when 22-year-old Aaron Rai, who was born in Wolverhampton and raised in Perton, stepped out for the US Open at Erin Hills, he was rubbing shoulders with the cream of world golf, including four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy and World No.1 Dustin Johnson. Brooks Koepka took home the trophy.

But Rai, who was watched by proud parents Amrik Singh and Dalvir Shukl, insisted it had been an 'amazing experience'.

The Patshull Park member enjoyed a great start to his Major championship debut in the first round. The 22-year-old was in the third group out and birdied the par-five first to claim an early share of the lead.

He ended day one with a one-over-par 73 but a round of 80 on day two meant he missed the cut.

But the former Perton Primary School and Wolverhampton Grammar School boy, who has recorded two victories on the Challenge Tour this season, insisted he had enjoyed his experience.

Automatic

"It was great," he said. "It was an amazing experience although I wasn't aware of sharing the lead after one hole – maybe 71 holes early!"

Rai booked his place at Erin Hills by winning the 36-hole international qualifying event at Walton Heath and another win on the Challenge Tour would secure automatic promotion to the European Tour.

"It's been a fantastic season so far, I couldn't have asked for anything more," added Rai.

"It's amazing to get a taste of it and it would be fantastic to have more opportunities in the future," he said.

At 7,845 yards, Erin Hills was the longest course in Major championship history, but Rai was not one of the players to complain about the deep rough lining the fairways.

"I thought it was a great course," he added. "It's a very good test but it's also fair at the same time. If you play well, get the ball in position and hit some good approach shots the greens are perfect so you can give yourself some chances. But if you're a little bit out on all of those you could run up some numbers on any hole. It was tough but very fair."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"He's just like anyone from the public, no big ego thinking he is the best player in the world or anything like that."

Major competition capped an incredible rise for the young professional is currently in just his second year on the European Challenge Tour – the second tier of professional golf.

Rai made a stunning breakthrough winning the Kenya Open, in March, just weeks after his 22nd birthday. "Kenya was very special to win," he said. "My mum was there and she was born in Kenya. It was a very special week."

From that success, a number of consistent performances have seen him shoot up the Challenge Tour order of merit as well as the world rankings.

Another victory followed in Andalucia, Spain, putting him within one more Challenge Tour victory of securing a pass through to the full European Tour.

"If you win three times in a year on the Challenge Tour you are through to the European Tour for the rest of this year and next year too," he said. "I've had a pretty steady and consistent level of performance this year.

"The top 15 players get on to the European Tour by right but I've only made a good start so far. There's still a long, long way to go."

Rai has progress from his back garden putting green at his home in Perton where his family still lives – through coaching sessions at the 3 Hammers complex in Coven and on to the fairways at Patshull Park as one of its youngest members.

The putting green at home is still there but it doesn't look quite so new nowadays, said Rai. But he believed his own hard work was paying dividends.

"Certainly with any sport you have to work hard to achieve your ambitions," he said. "It's a whole lifestyle that you have to adopt."

That has been in evidence since he was swinging a club as a four-year-old with his dad, and remembered by those who helped develop Rai's burgeoning golfing talent of prodigal proportions.

Richard Bissell, Patshull Park's resident professional, remembers Aaron's work ethic well and is thrilled to see him find a place at golf's top table.

"It is fantastic. I keep in touch with him on social media and I see him down the club quite often," he said.

Progress

"When he's not playing, he is usually down here, in the gym. It is testament to the hard work and his level-headedness over the years – he has never got too big for his boots."

And Bissell added: "He's just like anyone from the public, no big ego thinking he is the best player in the world or anything like that. I have known him since he was five. I remember us welcoming him here, and we have seen him progress.

"I said to quite a few people to watch out for him around six months ago, and he has proved me right."

And Ian Bonser, the owner of the 3 Hammers complex, also recalls a young boy driven to succeed, turning into a man with immense dedication to his craft.

"Aaron has been a regular visitor here since he was about four," he recalled.

"I've got a newspaper cutting from when he was a boy and it says he was born at 3.33am on the third of the third – and got his first hole-in-one on the par three course here."

And Bonser added: "Aaron is still a regular visitor here and he is still the same lad who came in back in about 1999. The one thing I would says about him is he is the hardest working, most dedicated person I've seen. Nobody deserves to do well more."

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Sport

From garden swing to a Major player on circuit

Page 43

Tonks joins Moors from Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE skipper Tom Tonks has left the Glassboys, following in the footsteps of Luke Benbow and Chris Lait by signing for National League outfit Solihull Moors.

The 25-year-old central midfielder chalked up 96 appearances for Gary Hackett's men over the course of two spells after initially arriving at the War Memorial Ground in the summer of 2015. He netted seven times.

Stourbridge have announced that season tickets and flexi tickets for the 2017/18 campaign will available for supporters to buy in person from the club this Sunday between 11am and 1pm. Sales continue during the following week with the club shop open from 1 to 2.30pm Monday-Friday.

Adult season tickets covering the club's Evo-stik League Premier Division home games cost £170, for senior citizens (65 and over), the charge is £115, while for juniors 13-18 years of age, it is £85. For league matches, children aged 12 and under will be admitted free of charge provided they are accompanied by a paying adult or adult season ticket holder.

Flexi season tickets, comprising of 12 numbered vouchers that can be used at any home league game, can also be purchased. For adults the cost is £100, senior citizens (65 and over) £70 and juniors 13-18 years old £50.

Full details and an application form can be downloaded at www.stourbridgefc.com

Runners at double under monicker of Black Country

THERE was the possibility of a Black Country double at the weekend for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club with the option of a half marathon along the canal towpath on Saturday or a 10k around the streets on Sunday, both events using the Black Country moniker.

The first option was the Birmingham and Black Country Half Marathon, a point to point race from Wolverhampton following the canal and finishing in Brindley Place, Birmingham. Steve Holdcroft had a fifth place finish in 1.20.30. Zoe Marklew finished in 2.08.17 to take 724th place, Malcolm Beddall was 871st and Tony Noke was 872nd in the same time of 2.19.10.

The next day runners was the Black Country 10k, a two lap course around the streets of Halesowen. Stuart Perkins led them home in sixth in 37.40, Dave Norman finished in 38.58 to take 10th place and claim second in age group.

Sandwiched in between was the Timberhonger 10k, a tough race in Bromsgrove. Kieran Pitt stopped the clock in 43.08 to take 57th place.

Holding court with hero Henman

Mark Tanner, Ed Bull, Charlotte Robbins and Faye Robbins with Tim Henman

DUDLEY tennis player Mark Tanner was delighted to meet up with his hero Tim Henman at the Jaguar Championships.

Tanner and David Lloyd Dudley team-mates Ed Bull, Charlotte Robbins and Faye Robbins took part in the national finals of the competition in Raynes Park, London.

More than 1,600 players from 417 teams took part in the mixed-doubles event. Former British No.1 Henman watched on, while a prize of Wimbledon Centre Court tickets were up for grabs, plus the chance to drive Jaguar's All-New F-PACE – World Car of the Year 2017 – for a weekend.

Tanner, aged 35, said he was delighted to meet his tennis hero. "It was a very good day, there was a good challenge around," he said. "My first memory of Wimbledon is watching Tim going through some five-set thrillers, begging him not to lose, and he's been really great for British tennis.

"The standard in the final was much, much higher than the regionals, which was great to be a part of."

HEAT IS ON FOR SHELLEY RIVALS

LLOYD Shelley once again proved too hot to handle on the one of the warmest days of the year as he returned to action for round three of the Darley Moor championships.

The Burntwood star, back at the Derbyshire track after missing the previous round due to Thundersport GB commitments, blasted away all his rivals to claim four wins.

The 33-year-old also broke two race records on his way to double victories in the Sound of Thunder and Formula 600 classes.

Two wins came inarley spokesman Brian George said: "The opening win came in the Formula 600 class, while Shelley also doubled up in the combined Sound of Thunder/Mini Sound of Thunder/Lightweight races.

The results leave Shelley top of the Sound of Thunder class, despite missing a meeting, by six points, and he has also closed the gap to Steve Procter to just eight points in the Formula 600.

Stone's Andrew Lowe was also back on the pace in the combined Steel Framed 600/Pre Injection 600 races, himself taking two flag-to-flag victories on his Pre Injection machine. Lowe holds on to second spot in the Pre Injection up to 1300cc class, two points ahead of Mark Brailsford.

Passenger Keith Box, from Wolverhampton, and his driver Anthony Eades were also flying, taking the class honours for the 1000cc sidecar machines in both races.

The result means the pair lead the Open Sidecars championships by 15 points.

There was further good news for the Black Country as Dudley's Mark Cockerton took one of the two Classic 350 victories, to sit just four points off class leader Simon Collins in the title table. Round four of the Darley Moor championship is on July 16. Entry costs £12 for the day, free for under-16s and £8 for senior citizens.

Dudley's Mark Cockerton took one of the two Classic 350 victories. Picture: Tony Else

Cradley fall to Potters after close fight

CRADLEY fell to Stoke after the home side gained only their second win of the season in a hard fought 47-43 victory on Sunday evening.

The A.R. Richards Potters gained an opening heat 4-2 from Mitchell Davey and Ryan Terry-Daley over Ben Morley to lead early on before Cradley struck back with a 4-2 from former Potter James Cockle and Luke Harriss.

The Potters then had a mid-meeting rally of heat victories which really caused the damage, starting with a 5-1 from Davey and Terry-Daley over Shelby Rutherford after Heathens skipper Tom Perry had pulled up with mechanical problems.

STOKE 47: Paul Burnett 12+1, Mitchell Davey 10, Tony Atkin 9, Ryan Terry-Daley 6+2, Luke Priest 5, David Wallinger 4+1, Joe Alcock 1.
CRADLEY 43: Ben Morley 13+1, Tom Perry 9+2, Conor Dwyer 6, James Cockle 5, Shelby Rutherford 4+1, Luke Harris 4, Joe Lawlor 2+1.

Meanwhile, the Heathens were mourning former rider Ila Teromaa, a firm favourite on the Dudley Wood terraces, who has died aged 63.

Final wicket elusive in cliff-hanger

STOURBRIDGE managed to consolidate second spot in division three of the Birmingham and District League in cliff-hanger at the Memorial Ground against Handsworth.

A cautious run rate of three runs per over in the first 20 overs laid the foundation for Stour to take the score past the double hundred mark. Harshad Patel (23) and number three JujharJohal took the score from 25-1 to 59-2 off 11 overs.

Sixteen-year-olds Jujhar Johal and Zain Ul Hassan (33) moved the score to 132 off 17 overs. The momentum was continued by Matt Bradley once Johal was out for 72 off 114 deliveries. Bradley blasted two sixes and six fours in a sprightly 62 off 52 and Stour's innings ended on 234-7 off 55 overs.

Stour's opening attack of Jade Richter and Jitesh Jivan-Patel shared seven wickets. Stubborn resistance came from number three, Gawayne Evans (46) and skipper Marvarick Perry (51) at six. Stour remained in charge, however, with opposition at 163-7 and 13 overs remaining.

Richter had Evans caught in the slips and the spinner Johal trapped Perry lbw. Handsworth were nine down for 201 with five overs left to take 24 points.

But a late rescue operation came from Kenrick Smith (33) at eight, who was eventually caught out off Jivan-Patel.

Doyle Pryce (16 not out) and Winston Lewis stood their ground and the home side were one wicket away and the opposition 30 runs adrift, the winning draw keeping Stour in second position.

They travel to Astwood Bank on Saturday.

Summers emotional after title defeat

TIPTON'S Ricky Summers admitted he was brought to the verge of tears after missing out on the British light-heavyweight title at London's O2 Arena on Saturday.

Summers was outpointed by Enfield's Frank Buglioni going down by a unanimous decision on the judges' cards – 116-113, 115-114 and 118-111.

Afterwards Summers said: "Frank is a great champion and can hold a shot very well. I would love to do it again.

"I want to be on the big stage and am absolutely gutted – I could cry."

★★★

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Thursday, July 6, 2017

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Special Hearing Aid Advice Week

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UK HEARING CARE.
Making *Sense* of Hearing...

Start your journey to better hearing...

UK Hearing Care, provider of Age UK Hearing Aids, would like to invite local residents to attend one of our Hearing Assessment Clinics being held at a venue in your area during this Special Hearing Aid Advice Week. It's your opportunity to 'start your journey to better hearing'.

The Hearing Assessment Clinics will give local residents the opportunity to talk to a local qualified hearing aid audiologist about their hearing concerns. Those attending will receive fully independent and informative hearing advice focusing on improving clarity for those with hearing difficulties.

If you struggle with some degree of hearing loss and are looking to improve on your day to day hearing clarity you should take advantage of the opportunity to attend a Hearing Assessment Clinic.

During this Special Hearing Aid Advice Week, our leading independent hearing care professionals will be giving the best advice on hearing in background noise and hearing with improved clarity; as well as special demonstrations on the latest ultra discreet hearing solutions.

UK Hearing Care Clinics are designed to help those with hearing difficulties find the best solution. Our team will advise patients on the options available to them, including signposting people to the NHS.

As demand is expected to be high, it's recommended you book your appointment early. If you would like to arrange a FREE, no-obligation hearing assessment, call to make an appointment on freephone 0808 115 4098.

Special Hearing Aid Advice Week

Monday 17th to Friday 21st July

Age UK Dudley
Merry Hill Shopping Centre,
Upper Mall (near PRIMARK),
Merry Hill Centre,
Brierley Hill, DY5 1SR

To book your free hearing assessment call free on
0808 115 4098

Helping you hear the things you love

The Special Hearing Aid Advice Week offers you the following free and with no obligation:

- **An evidence based hearing assessment** going much further than a standard PTA hearing test
- **Live demonstration** of your ideal hearing aid programmed to your individual needs
- **5 star clean & check-up** of your existing hearing aids – all makes and models

Can't come to us? We can come to you.

If you are unable to attend the Advice Week, you can choose to have a full hearing assessment in the comfort of your own home.

A home hearing assessment is also free and without any obligation.

Call the number above and request a home appointment.

Hearing in background noise **let's make things clear**

We offer definitive evidence based advice on what improvements can be made to your hearing in background noise. Learn about any limitations you may have.

How do **Age UK Hearing Aids** make sense of speech in background noise?

Over the years providers of hearing care have become very skilled at defining the actual hearing loss you have using Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA), this is what most people mean when they say having a "hearing test". However, defining the effect a hearing loss can have on our ability to listen and communicate is far harder to calculate.

These tests are used to program hearing aids in a basic way. They don't reliably tell you how the brain is working in respect of processing the sounds. So you can have two people with identical PTA test results but who have VERY different experiences with their hearing and very different abilities to communicate.

Age UK Hearing Aids are tackling the problem of background noise head on by creating an innovative new way of dealing with this issue. It's a popular misconception that your hearing will be improved simply by amplifying what you hear. But one of the most common problems people encounter with hearing difficulties in background noise is that speech remains muffled and indistinct and that unwanted noise swamps foreground sounds. Simply making sounds louder doesn't make speech any clearer.

How we test our ability to communicate

At **Age UK Hearing Aids** we have combined the hearing test with a suite of assessments that provide a 360° analysis of a person's hearing. Each assessment is linked to a phase of communication decline which we have called the **5 phases of communication decline.**

The 5 phases of communication decline

Phase 1 – Sensitivity to sound
The standard Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA) hearing test is used to assess any decline in your sensitivity to sound.

Phase 2 – Speech discrimination in quiet
Free Field Word Recognition Tests are presented through a calibrated loud speaker, to assess any decline in your speech recognition.

Phase 3 – Speech discrimination in noise
A special calibrated Speech in Noise test is used to measure what level speech needs to be, relative to all other competing sounds, for you to be able to follow a conversation.
This is the most commonly reported and most important area of communication difficulty for most patients.

Phase 4 – Comfort or tolerance to background noise
The Acceptable Noise Level (ANL) test measures at what level you find noise annoying relative to a conversation at a comfortable volume. This assesses any decline in acceptable noise levels.

Phase 5 – Non response to amplification
The audiologist will then program a hearing solution and apply that hearing correction to your ears. An Aided Free Field Word Recognition test is used to assess the potential for improvement and design your rehabilitation pathway.

Using these five different assessment tools can identify how far any damage to your auditory system has progressed and look at the impact on your ability to communicate. After the assessment you will be given a full explanation of the results to ensure you fully understand the nature of your hearing difficulties and its effects.

The audiologist will then give advice on options available and what tailored hearing solution is right for you. As part of the consultation the audiologist can also give you a demonstration of your ideal hearing solution based on technology and best value.

Not all national hearing aid companies offer all these tests as a standard part of their service. You can be confident you are getting the very best assessment available to you.

To book your free hearing assessment call free on **0808 115 4098**

Age UK Hearing Aids **Cosmetic Clinic**

Clear and simple advice on discreet hearing solutions to fit your lifestyle

Technological advances have enabled manufacturers to add features to tiny hearing aids. These can eliminate many of the problems associated with these highly cosmetic fittings.

However, less in size can sometimes mean less in performance so a very careful and detailed assessment is required before recommending style choices. Not only do we link the style choices you'll have to your test results but unlike many other providers with Age UK Hearing Aids less in size doesn't mean more in price.

The approach

The aim is to ensure you enjoy the greatest possible improvement and the best value for money, with access to every manufacturer. Only the newest and most appropriate technologies are recommended.

We specialise in offering a wide selection of discreet and invisible hearing aids and because of our detailed assessment we can tailor them into the best solutions possible without impacting on their performance.

Independence & Ethics

Many hearing aid companies are either owned by or have a supply agreement with a manufacturer and as such are not truly independent.

Age UK Hearing Aids are fully independent. We can supply hearing solutions from any manufacturer.

Being independent not only means we can prescribe the right solution for you but it also allows us to gain a much broader view of the market and the latest technologies.

To take the next step you should phone us now to organise a completely free of charge and without obligation hearing assessment. Whatever you decide to do following the assessment it will prove a highly valuable experience and will allow you to learn fully what can be done to improve your hearing and help you to love life!

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How the **Age UK Hearing Aids** Special Hearing Aid Advice Week has benefited our customers

"I contacted Age UK Hearing Aids in desperation. My hearing aids were unreliable and failed to help with clarity and background noise in particular. The audiologist gave me the most comprehensive hearing test I had ever had. I was shown a range of hearing aids on offer and how they would help me. I made my choice and they arrived a week later. They were a revelation.

The sound was so different and amazing it took a short while to get used to them. By the time the audiologist left I had a new hearing experience. They have grown on me more and more, I am so delighted I contacted the company. Their aftercare has also been superb. Thank you." **Mr Richard Phillips**

10 reasons for choosing Age UK Hearing Aids

Personal - Helping you realise the full potential of your hearing

Trust - An evidence based assessment provides a complete picture of your hearing ability

Flexibility - Helping you where and when you want, including in the comfort of your own home

Honesty - Only the latest technology appropriate to your needs and lifestyle will be recommended

Choice - You will be guided through your options at every stage

Value - Free, no-obligation hearing assessment and **low price guarantee*** on all products

Independence – You will be offered a complete unbiased choice across all manufacturers

Individual – A hearing care pathway will be tailored to your specific needs

Customer Care – Help is always available when you need it

Service - Unbeatable customer service, including call-out warranty and service support at no additional cost for life

Should you purchase a hearing system, you will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to support Age UK's charitable work.

A name you trust will help you **hear the things you love**

age UK

UK HEARING CARE. Making Sense of Hearing...

Special Hearing Aid Advice Week

Monday 17th to Friday 21st July

Age UK Dudley
Merry Hill Shopping Centre,
Upper Mall (near PRIMARK),
Merry Hill Centre,
Brierley Hill,
DY5 1SR

As demand is expected to be high, we recommend you book an appointment

To book your free hearing assessment call free on

0808 115 4098

Home appointments are also available on request.

Where we use the words 'we', 'us' and 'our', it refers to UK Hearing Care, who provide Age UK Hearing Aids and work in association with Age UK Group. Age UK Hearing Aids is a trading name of UK Hearing Care Management Services Ltd (registered in England and Wales 8364706) working in association with Age UK Trading CIC. Age UK Trading CIC is a trading subsidiary of Age UK (charity number 1128267) and donates its net profits to that charity. UK Hearing Care Management Services Ltd uses the name 'Age UK' under licence agreement with Age UK Trading CIC. UK Hearing Care Management Services Ltd will aim to raise a minimum of £420,000 for Age UK Trading CIC during 2016/17 through the promotion and sale of hearing aids. Age UK Trading CIC is registered in England and Wales 1102972. Registered Office Tavis House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9NA. * Ts & Cs apply, see our website for details.